



Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

In 2013, MnTAP began providing solid waste assistance to five organizations in Ramsey and Washington counties. Although the original project focus was diverting organic waste, MnTAP discovered additional recycling opportunities.

What they said...

“We are very happy with the success of our compost program in 2013 and the material we are able to divert. We are now looking at how we can extend our composting program. Working with MnTAP helped us realize how we could improve the program both short and long term.”

--Sonia James, Environmental Specialist, Boston Scientific

Ramsey-Washington Solid Waste Project – Case Study

Five organizations in Ramsey and Washington Counties improved recovery of organics and other recyclables



Throughout 2013, MnTAP helped five organizations in Washington and Ramsey counties improve recovery of organics and other recyclables. Some of these organizations had strong records of environmental initiatives, while others were looking to join the effort. MnTAP assessed these organizations' solid waste

streams individually and helped them find practical solutions to increase recycling and composting rates.

Partners and Motivations

Andersen Corporation: A windows and doors company looking to expand existing sustainability efforts by establishing organics collection at its Oak Park Heights office.

Boston Scientific: A medical device company seeking to strengthen its sustainability culture by improving the pilot organic waste collection program at its Arden Hills office.

Kemps, LLC: A large dairy company aiming to revamp sustainability efforts in response to employee interest, using its St. Paul headquarters to set an example for other facilities.

Marketfest: An annual festival in White Bear Lake interested in diverting organics from its waste stream.

Washington County Fair: An annual four-day fair seeking information on its waste stream in order to improve recycling and reduce trash.

Organic Materials

Improved Diversion

MnTAP helped Boston Scientific and Andersen Corporation improve existing collection of organics in their offices. Boston Scientific expanded collection from four buildings to eight, and kitchen staff were encouraged to improve signage and consider purchasing compostable dishware. The Andersen Corporation was also collecting organics, but did not generate enough food scraps to justify commercial hauling and had found onsite composting efforts unsuccessful. MnTAP suggested including used



paper towels with food scraps to increase the volume to justify professional hauling services, a practice which was adopted. Anderson has also put up new informational signage and implemented composting in breakroom kitchens.

New Efforts

Marketfest presented an opportunity to divert food waste and paper materials to composting. MnTAP helped organizers plan a pilot organics program for the 2014 festival, which would encourage all vendors to participate and installing three organics collection stations throughout the fairgrounds.

Recyclable Materials

Although this project focused on organics, MnTAP found that Kemps and the Washington



County Fair would benefit more from focusing first on improving recycling rates. MnTAP recommends a one-to-one ratio of trash bins to recycling bins. Kemps plans to pair more trash bins with recycling bins at its headquarters and improve signage to encourage employees to recycle. MnTAP recommended that the Washington County Fair increase its number of recycling bins from 13 to at least 65 to be paired with its 130 trash bins. MnTAP offered one year of consulting services to each organization to

explore more options for recycling and organics collection in the future.