



**Title/Subject:** Recycling Update  
**Meeting Date:** February 10, 2025  
**Prepared by:** Eric Wilson, Communications & Recycling Coordinator  
**Attachments:** Certified Recycling 2024 Invoice (Spring Cleanup)

**Background**

**Recycling Program**

Since 2015, the City of Shorewood has contracted with Republic Services for organized recycling collection. In 2024, 96% of total households in Shorewood regularly set out recycling carts for collection. Cardboard, mixed paper, and glass make up 76% of the total materials that residents recycle. Residual garbage makes up 12.9% of the materials found in residents’ recycling carts.

**Organics Program**

In accordance with Hennepin County’s Ordinance 13 requirements (regulates the separation of mixed recyclables and organic material), the City of Shorewood operates 3 organics recycling drop-off sites at Freeman Park, Southshore Park, and Haralson Park. This service is free to residents of Shorewood and neighboring communities of Deephaven, Greenwood and Woodland. To participate, residents register online. 149 households have registered for the organics program, as of December 31, 2024.

**Material Tonnage**

The table below demonstrates the type of materials that are disposed of by Shorewood residents. Recycling material and residual tonnage data is provided by Republic Services. Organics are calculated at 6 lbs/household/month (for 149 HH). Household hazardous waste and problem materials data is collected at the Spring Cleanup event. *Please note that not all material tonnage data from spring cleanup is provided below. See Certified Recycling Invoice for specific data.*

Material	Single Family Curbside (lbs)	Drop-Off Sites (lbs)	Clean Up Events (lbs)	Total Tons
Paper				
Cardboard	490,762			245.38
Mixed	471, 311			235.66
Metal				
Mixed Aluminum/Steel/Tin	19,301			9.65
Mixed Glass	201,990			101
Plastic				
#1 PET	85,284			42.64

#2 HDPE natural/clear	16,308			8.15
#2 HDPE mixed colors	17,356			8.68
Residual garbage in the recycling				
Residual Garbage	193,013			96.51
Organics				
Organics		46,488*		23.24
Household Hazardous Waste & Problem Materials				
Electronics			4,681	2.34
Appliances			7,950	3.98
Batteries			488	0.24
Tires			625	0.31
Fluorescent Lamps			70.50	0.04
<b>Total Tons</b>				<b>777.81</b>

### **Contract & Budget Information**

At the June 10, 2024, Work Session, City Council approved an extension agreement with Republic Services that will expire on December 31, 2025. In 2024, the City paid \$4.71 per household per month to Republic for recycling services. Residents were charged \$5.33 per month, which is reflected in a quarterly utility billing statement at \$16 per quarter. The breakdown of cost is as follows:

- Republic Services Recycling Service Fee = \$4.04/month/household
- Republic Services Processing Fee = \$0.67/month/household
- City of Shorewood Recycling Program costs\* = \$0.62/month/household

*\*Program costs include staff time and expenses associated with education and outreach efforts (see below)*

The City of Shorewood's organics drop-off sites are free to residents. These sites cost on average \$370/month. These are required regardless of participation rate per Hennepin County Ordinance 13.

### **Education & Outreach**

City of Shorewood's Communications and Recycling Coordinator is responsible for conducting outreach and providing education on City of Shorewood's recycling and organics programs. They utilize various resources from Hennepin County and gain additional support from residents who volunteer their time with the City's Recycling Committee.

In 2019, the Recycling Advisory Committee was formed to help guide the City's efforts related to waste reduction and support the steps that were required for the city to comply with Hennepin County's Ordinance 13 requirements. Since it first began in 2019, the committee has worked on various activities to meet the committee's goals. Activities have included residential sorts and awareness campaigns.

### **Recycling education and outreach completed in 2024**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distribution of recycling calendar to residents</li><li>• Newsletter articles</li><li>• Social media posts</li><li>• Utility Bill message</li><li>• Outreach at events</li><li>• Promotion of County programs (HHW events, Fix-it clinics, educational campaigns, etc.)</li><li>• Pumpkin drop event (22 HH participated)</li><li>• Monthly electronic newsletter (836 subscribers)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First Committee-hosted field trip to SMSC Organics Site (10 participants)</li><li>• Door knocking (86 HH reached)</li><li>• Piloted a yard sign drop-off (42 signs collected)</li><li>• Spring cleanup and paper shred event support</li><li>• Worked with 2 VANTAGE program groups to design a survey and a short video to promote organics recycling</li></ul>
---	--

### **2025 Next Steps**

#### Recycling Program

Republic Services has increased recycling fees from \$4.04/month/household to \$4.65/month/household. The number of participating households has also increased from 2,890 in 2024 to 2,910 beginning January 1, 2025. Recycling fees in the 2025 Master Fee Schedule have been increased to \$18/quarter to reflect this change. In preparation for contract terms to expire on December 31, 2025, City staff is preparing an RFP to contract recycling services beginning on January 1, 2026. The first draft of the RFP is expected to be prepared by and discussed at the February 24 City Council Work Session.

#### Organics Program

The City will continue to provide drop-off sites in contract with Republic Services and to meet Ordinance 13 requirements as outlined by Hennepin County. Minn. Stat. § 473.149 – a long-range policy plan for solid waste management, prepared by the MN Pollution Control agency – introduced a future requirement for cities with populations over 5,000 to provide curbside organics services for all residents. While the date of when this requirement will take effect is unknown, the City will include curbside organics services in the recycling RFP in order to begin to obtain pricing information and to explore as a possible service to offer to residents.

City Staff will continue to work with Shorewood’s Recycling Committee to provide education and outreach to residents utilizing county approved messaging and terminology through various communication tools, including direct mail, electronic newsletters, events, and the city’s website.

The first recycling committee meeting for 2025 is tentatively schedule for Tuesday, March 11 at 5:30 p.m.

**Financial Considerations:** None

**Action Requested:** None