



SMSC Organics Recycling Facility/Dakota Prairie Composting Fact Sheet



What is the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility?

- The facility recycles organic waste to create useful materials, such as high-quality compost and mulch.
- The SMSC Organics Recycling Facility is owned and operated by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), a federally recognized sovereign Dakota tribal government. The facility has been in operation since 2011.
- Located on 24 acres in Shakopee, the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility serves industrial, municipal, commercial and residential organic recycling needs.
- In 2017, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency adopted the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Plan for the Twin Cities metro area that set a recycling goal of 75% by December 31, 2030, and recycling a minimum of 616,000 tons of organics by 2030. Currently, the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility is one of only two large-scale composting facilities processing source-separated organics in the metro area. Facilities like the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility are needed to help meet the plan's goals.

Environmental impact

- Guided by the tribe's culture and commitment to caring for the earth, the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility's primary goal is to help protect and preserve the local environment. The SMSC has contributed significant resources to support this mission.
- Efforts at the facility support improving public health, reducing the reliance on landfills, conserving energy and natural resources, and reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
- The SMSC Organics Recycling Facility prevents an average of 70,000 tons of organic waste from entering landfills each year, reducing the total amount in Twin Cities metro area landfills by 1.4%.
- Since 2016, the facility has accounted for approximately 27% of the organics composted and recycled in the Twin Cities metro area. The new Dakota Prairie Composting Facility will be the largest composting facility in the Midwest, and will handle triple the amount of food waste.

Community impact

- The facility offers free Christmas tree and Halloween pumpkin recycling seasonally, as well as free household organics drop off to area residents.
- Since 2013, residents have participated over 45,000 times in the free recycling programs.
- The SMSC Organics Recycling Facility donates products, such as compost and mulch, to local cities, schools and nonprofit organizations every year.

Odor mitigation

- The facility undergoes rigorous daily odor monitoring using a Nasal Ranger Olfactometer, which provides odor readings from 1 (least) to 60 (most). If a reading is 2 or higher, it is reported immediately and investigated by facility staff.
- In addition, the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility uses several methods to prevent and limit odor. This includes processing source-separated organics and turning windrows (or organic matter piles) at times when fewer neighbors are home, covering incoming source-separated organics within 15 minutes of receiving the material and eliminating standing water at the facility.
- To respond to any feedback, the facility has an online contact form for neighbors to submit comments and questions.
- Dakota Prairie Composting will employ a new method of composting called Covered Aerated Static Pile composting. This method provides more efficient composting, higher process control, and advanced odor reduction. All process air will pass through a biofilter, efficiently scrubbing odor.

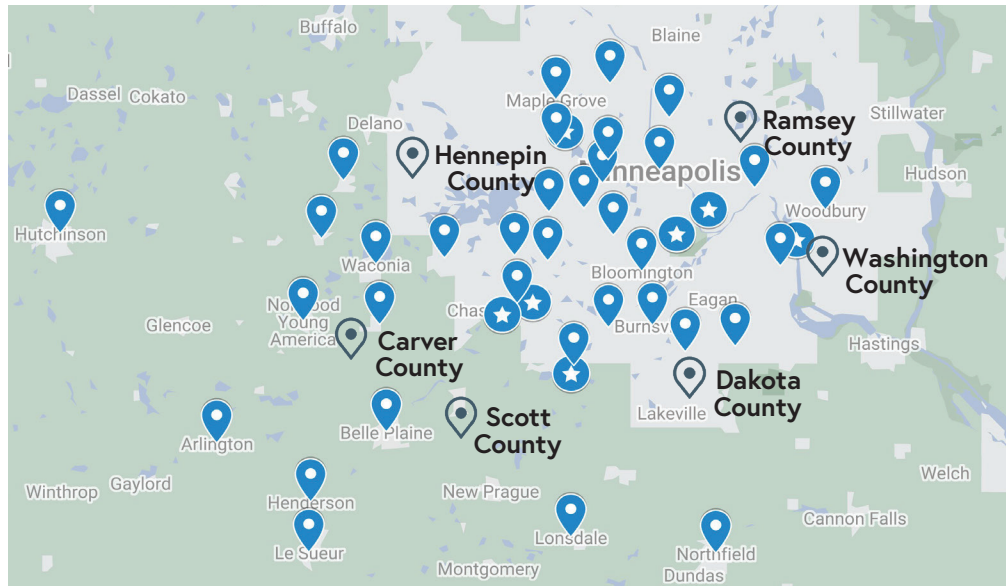
The future of the facility

- As local composting efforts capture more and more organic material, the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility is nearing capacity.
- The SMSC General Council, the highest governing body of the tribe, has authorized a multimillion-dollar investment to expand the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility at an industrial location. The new facility will incorporate modern technology and processes to control odors and increase efficiency.

For more information, visit smscorf.com.

Municipalities that have used the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility

The facility serves 48 municipalities on an annual basis, including 35 cities and six Twin Cities metro counties.



📍 Counties

📍 Cities

Apple Valley, Arlington, Belle Plaine, Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville, Chanhausen, Cologne, Columbia Heights, Eden Prairie, Edina, Golden Valley, Henderson, Hopkins, Hutchinson, Inver Grove Heights, Le Sueur, Lonsdale, Maple Grove, Mayer, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Northfield, Norwood Young America, Plymouth, Prior Lake, Rosemount, Savage, Shakopee, St. Louis Park, St. Paul, Victoria, Waconia, Watertown, Woodbury

★ Agencies

Metropolitan Airports Commission, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy, Shakopee Public Schools, Shakopee Public Utilities Commission, St. Paul Academy & Summit School, Three Rivers Park District

Product donations

The SMSC Organics Recycling Facility donates products such as compost and mulch to local cities, schools and more, including the following over the past few years.

- American Indian Community Development Corporation
- Berg Bros
- Boy Scout Troop 333
- Burnsville High School
- Campfire Minnesota
- Carver County Environment Center
- Church of St. Paul
- City of Burnsville
- City of Edina Fire Department
- City of Fridley
- Columbia Heights Key Club
- Dar-Al-Farooq Mosque
- Dream of Wild Health
- Elders Lodge
- FIT Academy Charter School
- Five Hawks Elementary
- Friendship Baptist Church
- His House Foundation/Abundance Farms
- Jeffers Pond Elementary
- Little Earth of United Tribes
- Mendota Heights LiveGreen Sustainability Program
- Minnesota Composting Council
- Minnesota Correctional Facility - Scott County
- Minnesota Waste Wise
- New Brighton Community Center
- New Prague Area Schools
- New Prague Rotary Club
- Raven Stream Elementary School
- Scott County Community Garden
- Scott County Public Health
- Scouts BSA Troops 9269 & 7269
- Somali American Farmers Association
- Spark-Y
- St. Francis Regional Medical Center
- St. Johns Lutheran Church
- The Food Group
- Twin Cities Urban Indian Diabetes Program
- Urban Farming Coalition
- Windom Community Garden



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