

Ramsey/Washington County Success Story: St. Paul Meat Shop

The St. Paul Meat Shop was referred to the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation through their hauler prior to the opening of their new shop in 2015. Following a site visit from Waste Wise to identify opportunities for reducing waste, the shop decided to pursue single stream recycling and organics recycling programs. When asked why they chose to set up these programs, manager Nick Mangigian said, "A major part of it is the fact that the restaurant industry creates so much waste that is compostable. For us, it felt like a slam dunk to be able to recycle and compost." With a commitment to maximize their waste diversion, St. Paul Meat Shop worked with Waste Wise to determine their needs and apply for a BizRecycling grant. Using this grant funding, the shop purchased compostable bags for collecting food scraps, paper towels and napkins, butcher paper, cheese wax and rinds, and other organic material that can be composted. One of the biggest challenges was educating customers on which bin to use. To mitigate confusion, the shop purchased color-coded bins and placed signage on all bins to indicate the types of material that should go in each.

With a dedicated staff and all the necessary supplies in place, the St. Paul Meat Shop has recycled an impressive amount of material. In the first three months, the shop's hauler reported that they collected 4720 lbs. of organic material for composting, which amounts to 18,880 lbs. of organics annually. As for single stream recycling, the shop is recycling about 10,400 lbs. of material annually. "It's truly surprising how little trash you generate when you're diligent about sorting out compostable and recyclable items," says Nick. Just step outside and you can see that St. Paul Meat Shop does indeed have a small amount of trash, demonstrated by a 96-gallon trash cart sitting next to two 2-yard containers for recycling and organics.



Highlights

What: Set up recycling and organics recycling programs for new meat shop.

Why: To reduce waste and maximize recycling efforts.

How: Used BizRecycling grant to place organics and recycling bins throughout shop.

Results: 18,880 lbs. of organics composted annually; 10,400 lbs. of materials recycled annually.

