



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

**Todd County**

• MINNESOTA • EST. 1855 •

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
*Work Session Agenda*

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

10:00 AM

*or immediately following the regular board meeting*

*Meeting to be held in the County Board Room*

*at the Historic Courthouse, 215 1st Ave S, Long Prairie, MN.*

**MEETING WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED AT: [HTTPS://WWW.CO.TODD.MN.US](https://www.co.todd.mn.us)**

***Agenda Item #***

***Agenda Time:***

- 1 Film Plastic Recycling Program Update**  
***Chris McConn & Mike Eberle, Solid Waste***

10:00

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Economic Growth & Community Investment Committee  
CC: Chris McConn, P.E., Solid Waste Department  
FROM: Cedar Walters & Steve Branby, Solid Waste Department  
RE: MPCA Greater MN Film Plastic Recycling Grant Closeout and Proposed Program Fee  
DATE: October 6, 2022

### BACKGROUND

The Solid Waste Department is preparing to close out the Greater MN Recycling Grant that provided funds to create the regional Film Plastic Recycling Program. Since June of 2021, the program has provided consistent collection of accepted film plastic material to approximately 170 sites in Otter Tail, Todd, and Wadena Counties. Otter Tail County has met the match requirements and workplan task for the project and has been approved to close out the grant six months early. Shared-use agreements with Todd and Wadena Counties are in place until the end of the grant agreement, originally dated June 2023.

### PROGRAM RESULTS

Otter Tail County purchased a front-load truck compatible with existing collection containers in the region, as well as 50 additional containers to allow for program growth, and hired a dedicated part-time route specialist to carry out collection activities.

Using the purchased collection vehicle, the Film Plastic Recycling program collected 479 tons of film plastic during the first 12 months of consistent collection, a 12% increase over the previous three-county average of 425 tons. Collection bins were placed at transfer stations in the three-county area for increased access to the program.

### PROPOSED PROGRAM FEE

Prior to and during the Film Plastic Collection Program, Otter Tail County has communicated the possibility of a user fee for film plastic collection services to existing and potential collection sites. Based on expenses during the first 14 months of consistent collection, the total cost per user for the program is approximately \$480 annually, including replacement cost of the collection vehicle averaged over a 10-year period (see attached). Now that we have a better understanding of program costs, we are proposing a \$200 annual user fee to help offset program costs. This proposed fee remains below what it would cost a collection site to collect and dispose of the material through a licensed waste hauler and incentivizes recycling over disposal. This proposed fee structure excludes the costs of purchasing containers.

We are seeking your comments at this time on the proposed user fee for the Film Plastic Recycling Program. Our next step is discussion with Todd and Wadena County committees.

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**WADENA, TODD AND OTTER TAIL COUNTIES  
ACTUAL ANNUALIZED PROGRAM COSTS  
(JULY 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 2022)  
FILM PLASTIC RECYCLING PROGRAM**

<b>Actual Costs</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ESTIMATED</b>	<b>DIFFERENCE</b>
<b>Total Grant Reimbursement</b>	\$232,000	\$232,000	0.00
New Vehicle Cost	\$254,181	\$260,000	(5,819.00)
Annual Insurance Costs	\$2,000	\$2,000	0.00
Annual Maintenance Cost (new)	\$9,691	\$16,000	(6,309.00)
Labor Cost (per year)	\$20,630	\$23,000	(2,370.00)
Baling	\$28,952	\$29,000	(48.00)
Tons Baled	\$410	\$580	(170.00)
Fuel Cost (per year)	\$14,039	\$10,000	4,039.00
Cost for 50 more bins	\$91,426	\$50,000	41,426.00
Cost per year to waste generator	\$200	\$200	0.00
Projected Total users	170	200	(30.00)
Cost/year to all Counties based on user fee:	\$47,667	\$47,800	(133.47)

	<b>Otter Tail</b>	<b>Todd</b>	<b>Wadena</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Current Participating Farmers	89	56	17	162	County Cost
Projected Participants	93	59	18	170	Per
Projected Revenue	\$18,680	\$11,760	\$3,560	\$34,000	User/Year
<b>COST OF BINS</b>					
Capital Cost (Bins)	\$91,426				
Grant Amount (Bins)	\$41,364				
COST PER BIN	\$1,001				
<b>COUNTY COST PER YEAR PER SITE</b>					
Capital Costs (Truck)	\$139,643	\$87,865	\$26,673	\$254,181	\$280
Grant Amount (Truck)	\$104,732	\$65,899	\$20,005	\$190,636	
County Share of Capital Cost	\$34,911	\$21,966	\$6,668	\$63,545	
Baling	\$15,906	\$10,008	\$3,038	\$28,952	
Fuel, Ins. and Maintenance	\$28,019	\$17,630	\$5,352	\$46,360	
Average Cost per Year (10 yrs)	\$28,736	\$18,075	\$5,497	\$47,667	

**NOTES:**

1. Replacement cost assumes truck will be utilized for other programs 75% of time.
2. Cost of containers has been removed from the Cost per year average.