

OPEN HOUSE

Environmental Service Center Planning

Enhancing Environmental Health Services

Background

State law requires counties to plan for and manage household hazardous waste (HHW) generated by residents. HHW includes unusable or unwanted household products that can harm human health or the environment if improperly disposed.

Based on community feedback, Ramsey County seeks to improve services to ensure residents can safely and conveniently dispose of HHW. In 2020, the county conducted surveys and listening sessions to gather residents' insights on facility and service improvements. Residents asked for:

- More comprehensive HHW services, including e-waste collection and extended hours.
- A location for HHW drop off that is accessible, convenient, welcoming, and easier to navigate.
- Services that address gaps for the county's racially diverse communities, elderly residents, and individuals without transportation.
- HHW pickup service that is low cost or free.

Limits to services of current site

Ramsey County's current year-round HHW facility is owned and operated by a private contractor, Bay West LLC. Bay West has provided quality service to county residents since 2000.

The current facility and services do not meet community needs or fit the county's long-term vision due to the following:

- Private ownership limits long-term program stability, county control and program decision-making. It also does not allow for a competitive bid process for collection service labor.
- The current facility is not large enough to collect electronic waste.
- The county needs space to expand resident access to services, and improve the convenience of services.

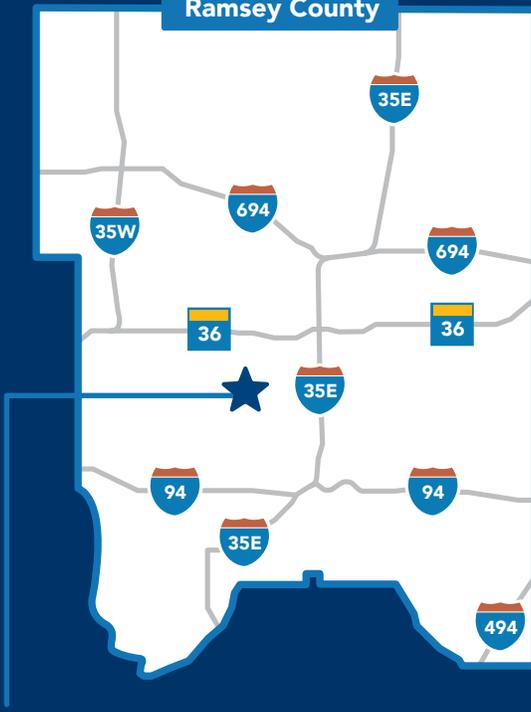


A new HHW system

As part of a long-term vision and in response to community feedback, the county is developing a new HHW collection system. Our goal is to meet community expectations and needs with a focus on equity and inclusion. Improvements already started or planned include:

- A new, free electronics recycling program in partnership with locally-owned Repowered.
- A county-owned Environmental Service Center.
- An HHW pickup program.

Ramsey County



Proposed Site: 1700 Kent Street, Roseville, MN 55117

What is the Environmental Service Center?

The Environmental Service Center will be a community space for recycling drop-off services. It will also provide educational opportunities and offer reuse and repair resources.

The new county-owned center will:

- Offer free drop-off site for recyclables, food scraps, electronic waste and HHW.
- Create a space for community education and resources.
- Create a permanent location for Fix-It Clinics where the community can get household items fixed for free and learn valuable repair skills.
- Provide a free product reuse room.

Why was this location selected?

After carefully considering accessibility, location and convenience, as well as cost, environmental impact and space needed for multiple services, Ramsey County proposes using county-owned land at 1700 Kent Street in Roseville. This site is centrally located and meets all the program and equity needs of an ideal location:

- Is approximately 5 acres and able to serve 5 cars at a time and queue a minimum of 20 cars.
- Can accommodate over 50,000 visits per year.
- Is close to a freeway, county road or state highway.
- Is accessible to trucks, including semis.
- Is suitable for a paved surface with little to no slope.
- Can be easily recognized and accessed by the public.
- Offers access for public transit users, cyclists and pedestrians.

How will this be funded?

Funding will come from the county's solid waste fund balance. Dollars from the fund are generated by the County Environmental Charge (CEC) which is a service charge on trash collection services. Construction and operation of the center will not increase the CEC.



I have questions, where can I reach you?

Ramsey County wants and values questions and feedback from community. To provide input or ask questions, please visit the Environmental Service Center webpage at ramseycounty.us/ESC. You can also sign up to get updates about the Environmental Service Center and other projects related to the Enhancing Environmental Health Services initiative.