



WHERE THE FOREST MEETS THE PRAIRIE

Todd County

● MINNESOTA ● EST. 1855 ●

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Work Session Agenda

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

9:45 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 | Staffing Discussion
<i>Kim Bosl, County Recorder</i> | 9:45 |
| 2 | Mission, Vision and Values for C&D Regional Planning
<i>Mike Eberle, Solid Waste</i> | 9:50 |
| 3 | STEP Annual Update
<i>Cory Lawrence, STEP</i> | 10:10 |
| 4 | Northern Pines Annual Update
<i>Kim Schaefbauer, Katie Wippler & Laura Vaughn, Northern Pines</i> | 10:20 |
| 5 | Sherburne County's Request for Todd County to Pass Resolution To Urge Repeal of Minnesota's Moratorium On Nuclear Energy Production
<i>Jackie Bauer, County Coordinator</i> | 10:30 |



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Board Action Form

Requestor to Complete:

Type of Action Requested (Check one):		Board Action Tracking Number : (Issued by Auditor/Treasurer Office)
<input type="checkbox"/> Action/Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Report	
<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other WORK SESSION	
Agenda Topic Title for Publication:		Mission, Vision and Values for C&D Regional Planning
Date of Meeting: November 4, 2025		Agenda Time Requested: 20 minutes <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda
Organization / Department Requesting Action: Solid Waste		
Person Presenting Topic at Meeting: Mike Eberle		
Background: Supporting Documentation enclosed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
The solid waste department is participating in a nine-county regional planning study for future C&D disposal solutions. Department staff would like to report on current progress of the study, and request feedback on a recent draft statement of the mission, vision and values of a theoretical program. It is important that County Commissioners provide feedback on this and future meetings so that by June, 2026 Todd County can feel strongly about its interest or disinterest in participating in a regional partnership with this group or any other group.		
Options:		
None to be presented at this time		
Recommendation:		
The Todd County Board of Commissioners approves the following by Motion: There is currently no Board action recommended at this time.		

Additional Information:	Budgeted:	Comments
Financial Implications: \$ Funding Source(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Attorney Legal Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Facilities Committee Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Finance Committee Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Auditor/Treasurer Archival Purposes Only:

Action Taken:	Voting in Favor	Voting Against
Motion:	<input type="checkbox"/> Byers	<input type="checkbox"/> Byers
Second:	<input type="checkbox"/> Denny	<input type="checkbox"/> Denny
<input type="checkbox"/> Passed <input type="checkbox"/> Rollcall Vote	<input type="checkbox"/> Noska	<input type="checkbox"/> Noska
<input type="checkbox"/> Failed	<input type="checkbox"/> Neumann	<input type="checkbox"/> Neumann
<input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	<input type="checkbox"/> Becker	<input type="checkbox"/> Becker
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Notes:	

Official CertificationSTATE OF MINNESOTA }
COUNTY OF TODD }

I, Denise Gaida, County Auditor-Treasurer, Todd County, Minnesota hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the proceedings of the County Board of said County with the original record thereof on file in the Auditor-Treasurer's Office of Todd County in Long Prairie, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said board and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof, and that said motion was duly passed by said board at said meeting. Witness my hand and seal:

Seal



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 28, 2025

TO: Todd County Board of Commissioners Work Session

FROM: Chris McConn, Solid Waste Director

CC: Mike Eberle, Landfill and Transfer Station Supervisor

RE: Mission Vision Value Future of C&D Waste

I. Background Information

In late 2024, the Solid Waste Department discussed future landfill operations and current rulemaking activities with the Committee. A brief review includes:

a. Proposed rule requirements:

- i. Eliminate the unlined C&D permit by rule (PBR) facilities
- ii. Be lined with leachate collection systems
- iii. Be capped with protective covers
- iv. Require groundwater monitoring
- v. Have financial assurance to mitigate future liabilities

b. Potential Impacts:

- i. Dramatically increased disposal costs
- ii. Closure of demo landfills which will increase transportation costs
- iii. Increased illegal disposal, burning, or burial of construction debris
- iv. Increased amounts of C&D material in MSW landfills

c. Partnership opportunities

In June 2025 Otter Tail County was awarded a grant for \$300,000 from the MPCA to organize with 8 other counties (Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Todd, and Wadena) to prepare a construction and demolition waste regional management plan (Plan) to see what options are available in the region for C&D waste given proposed new rule requirements.

II. Plan Progress

Our consultant has collected and summarized the existing C&D management systems in each of the nine counties (public and private). The consultant created a mission, vision, and values statement using input from each county's representative. Staff has reviewed the first draft mission, vision, and values statement and modified the statement to better reflect the unique needs of the nine counties (attached).



The next step of this project is to prepare cost estimates of a regional hub and spokes system (capital and operating).

III. Discussion and Recommendations

The ultimate goal of the study is to identify a regional partnership that would ultimately require Board approval. We would like to use this time and future meetings to garner your input on the mission, vision, and values statement. Some specific topics we will discuss include:

- i. Environmental Responsibility
- ii. Fiscal Stewardship
- iii. County Autonomy
- iv. Fairness
- v. Opportunities
- vi. Statutory Requirements

We look forward to your questions and feedback.

District 4 C&D Waste Plan - Draft Mission, Vision, and Values Statement

Mission Statement

Commit to operating a reliable regional partnership that integrates both public and private entities to address regulatory requirements and create efficiencies in a regional construction and demolition landfill(s).

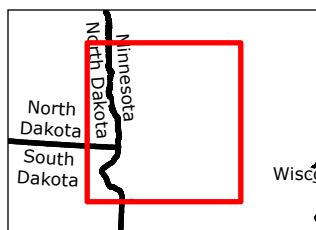
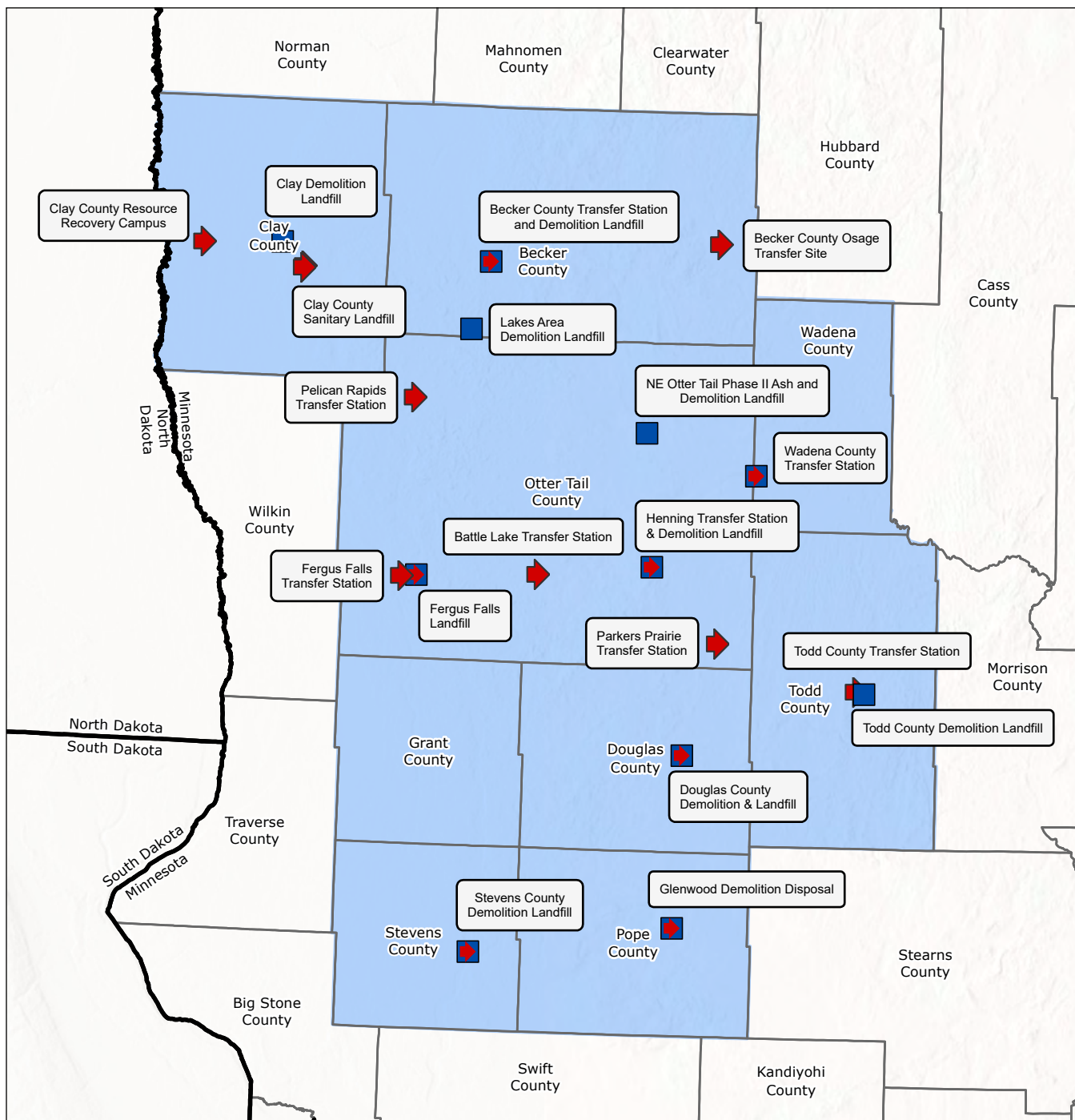
Vision Statement

A sustainable regional solution to construction and demolition waste management that encourages cooperation among participating counties while balancing both the fiscal and environmental impact, regulatory compliance, and reducing landfilled waste.

Values

- Fiscal Stewardship:
To manage C&D waste with cost-effective solutions as the top priority.
- Fairness:
Strive to ensure a fair level of service, cost, representation, and benefit for all participating counties including transport costs.
- Environmental Responsibility:
Commit to protecting land, water, air, and the community through responsible construction and demolition waste management practices in alignment with the waste management hierarchy.
- Opportunities:
Seek low-risk, forward-thinking strategies and technologies, grounded in consistent data and successful implementation.
- Autonomy
Each member county's solid waste program, their infrastructure (including transfer stations) and taxation authority will remain autonomous and financially independent of a regional program.

V:\2277\active\227707983\03_data\gis_cad\gis\pro\OtterTail_C&D\OtterTail_C&D.aprx Revised: 2025-09-18 By: dmerickson



Notes
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 15N
2. Data Sources: Stantec, MPCA
3. Background: US Counties

- Legend**
- C&D Transfer Stations
 - C&D Landfill and Transfer Station
 - C&D Landfills
 - Partner Counties
 - State Boundary
 - County Boundary

0 10 20 Miles
(At original document size of 8.5x11)
1:1,267,200



Project Location
West Central MN

Prepared by DME on 2025-09-18

Client/Project
District-4 Regional Group
District-4 Regional C&D Waste Management Plan

227707983

Figure No.

1

Title

Landfill Locations



Sherburne County Board of Commissioners

Sherburne County Government Center
13880 Business Center Drive
Suite 100
Elk River, MN 55330-4668
(763) 765-3001
1-800-433-5229

September 2nd, 2025

Mr. Darrick Moe, President & CEO
Minnesota Rural Electric Association
13601 80th Circle N., 3rd floor
P.O. Box 1265
Maple Grove, MN 55311 City, MN ZIP

RE: Sherburne County Participation in the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance (MNEA)

Dear Mr. Moe;

Thank you for contacting Sherburne County regarding the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's (MREA) and Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance's (MNEA) interest in pursuing legislative action to repeal Minnesota's moratorium on Nuclear Power generation.

Sherburne County has a longstanding history as Minnesota's "Energy County". We not only currently host Xcel Energy's Sherburne County Generating Station (Sherco) - and have done so since 1976 - but we are now home to nearly 1000 MW in modern solar power production via both large industry production facilities and community solar gardens and farms.

In addition to hosting a variety of major energy production facilities, Sherburne County is home to significant transmission and distribution infrastructure (both electricity and gas) and five dynamic energy providers.

Sherburne County was also home to Minnesota's first nuclear power generation, compliments of the Elk River Atomic Reactor. Commissioned in August 1963 operated by the Rural Cooperative Power Association of Elk River until 1968, the first reactor operated by a rural cooperative in the United States.

Finally, with the Monticello Nuclear Power Plant just across the river, we continue to support safe and reliable nuclear power generation in Minnesota through emergency preparedness activities, mutual assistance planning, and regional coordination.

On August 19th, 2025, the Sherburne County first discussed and then voted unanimously to join the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance (MNEA) and actively support the repeal of Minnesota's moratorium on nuclear energy production to ensure safe, clean, and reliable baseload energy for

all Minnesotans, especially as the State advances its 2040 goal for 100% carbon-free electricity generation.

Further, the Board of Commissioners wishes to make known its conceptual support for locating and hosting safe, reliable nuclear energy production facilities here in Sherburne County, continuing our long-standing history as Minnesota's "Energy County."

Our point of contact to both effect and maximize Sherburne County's participation in and support for MNEA and its efforts is County Administrator Bruce Messelt. Bruce will reach out to ensure our immediate and active involvement.

Knowledgeable of the time and effort required to achieve success in this endeavor, we look forward to actively supporting the MNEA and its objectives.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Gray", written over a horizontal line.

Gary Gray
District 4 Commissioner and 2025 Board Chair

ec: Bruce Messelt, Sherburne County Administrator

Nuclear Energy

A carbon-free solution

In 2023, Minnesota passed the 100% carbon free by 2040 legislation without a real plan on how we are going to achieve it. The reality is, there is no carbon free resource that can provide baseload power, available 24-7, other than nuclear power.

A typical home uses about 11 megawatt hours of energy in a year. Here is the amount of each resource it takes to produce 11 MWH.

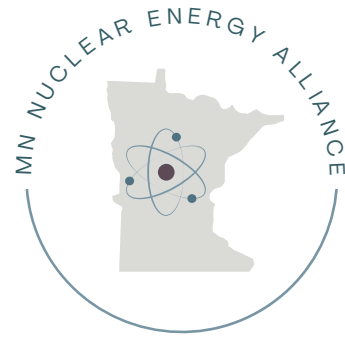


3.5 ounces of Uranium

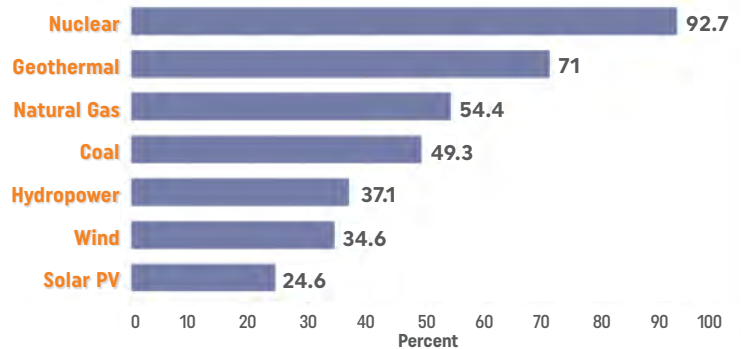


1.5 tons of coal

(Carbon Credits) <https://carboncredits.com/more-power-per-punch-nuclear-energy-outshines-fossil-fuels/>



U.S. Capacity Factor* by Energy Source - 2021



(Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration)

All the spent fuel from U.S. nuclear reactors since the 1950s would fit into a single football field at a depth of less than 10 yards.



This spent fuel has been safely stored and caused harm to exactly 0 people throughout the life of the industry.

(Source: U.S. Department of Energy)

The used nuclear fuel from one person's entire lifetime of energy use would fit in one pop can.



(Source: Canadian Nuclear Association)

Nuclear provides more permanent jobs and higher hourly pay than all other generation sources.

- SMRs to large reactors provide 237-500 permanent jobs
- Hourly pay averages around \$56/hour (50-65% more than wind and solar)

(Source: U.S. Department of Energy)

Land use needed to produce 1 million megawatt hours of power:



17,800 acres wind



3,200 acres solar



103 acres nuclear

(Wind area includes the spacing required between turbines.) (Source: Nuclear Energy Institute) <https://www.nei.org/news/2022/nuclear-brings-more-electricity-with-less-land>

Studies show that nuclear energy worker safety ranks among the top of all forms of electric generation.

(Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/safest-sources-of-energy>)

Small modular reactors

Benefits of small modular reactors

- Smaller size
- Siting flexibility
- Enhanced safety features
- Modular build
- Scalability
- Reduced costs

- ▶ We are the only state in the nation that has an outright ban on new reactor construction.
- ▶ We are advocating for the ability to have conversations about nuclear energy.

* Capacity factor is a measure of the actual energy produced divided by the theoretical maximum energy produced if operated on a 24-7 basis.

The Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance is a coalition of diverse organizations committed to advancing nuclear power as a reliable solution to meet Minnesota's energy needs and achieve carbon-free goals. Alliance members represent utilities, labor unions, environmental advocates, businesses, and more. Learn more about the alliance at mnnuclearenergyalliance.org.

Urging Repeal of Minnesota's Moratorium on Nuclear Energy Production

WHEREAS, while national, state, and regional electrical demand has been historically stable or declining, recent trends in electrification, economic development, and technology demand have resulted in projected increase in electrical power needs; and

WHEREAS, reliance on carbon free-based energy production continues to increase and dependence on traditional fossil fuel-based energy production continues to decrease, despite significant concern over reliable baseline and peak demand energy; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard statute was amended to include adding a carbon-free standard that requires electric utilities to provide 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040, leading the nation with such an ambitious goal; and

WHEREAS; nuclear energy is uniquely positioned to address America's energy challenges through generation of carbon-free electricity, with a record of over 70 years of safe operation and storage - all with significant federal and state oversight; and

WHEREAS, nuclear energy already generates roughly half of Minnesota's current carbon-free electricity, with nuclear plants safely operating in Minnesota for over 50 years, providing decades of carbon-free affordable electricity for families and businesses; and

WHEREAS, a new generation of advanced nuclear technology offers enhanced safety features, flexibility in siting, and a smaller footprint, making them ideal for future energy needs; and

WHEREAS, thirty-three nations have now pledged to triple nuclear power by 2050, with America leading the charge, all while Minnesota – with a world-class engineering talent and manufacturing base - is the only state with an outright moratorium on all new nuclear reactor construction; and

WHEREAS, lifting this 30-year-old moratorium is the first step in securing the affordable, clean, and reliable energy Minnesotans needs, especially as the state undertakes its energy transition to meet the 100% carbon-free electricity goals while ensuring reliable baseload power; and

WHEREAS, under the umbrella of the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance (MNEA), a diverse coalition of Minnesota governments, businesses, utilities, labor unions, and environmental advocates is calling on state lawmakers to lift Minnesota's 30-year-old moratorium on new nuclear power development; and

WHEREAS, *[insert county-specific goals, objectives, information here]*; and

WHEREAS, *[insert county-specific goals, objectives, information here]*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the _____ County Board of Commissioners does hereby act to join the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance (MNEA) and actively support the repeal of Minnesota’s moratorium on nuclear energy production to ensure safe, clean, and reliable baseload energy for all Minnesotans, especially as the State advances its 2040 goal for 100% carbon-free electricity generation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the _____ County Board of Commissioners urges the Minnesota Governor, State Legislature, and regulatory agencies to accelerate soonest reconsideration of the Minnesota moratorium, cognizant of advancements in available technology, increasing demand for reliable electrical power, and actions being taken by other states to located and support new nuclear power generation facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the _____ County Board of Commissioners respects Minnesota’s Native American Community concerns regarding siting and operation of nuclear power facilities, and the safe storage of waste materials, and welcomes earnest consideration of Sherburne County for siting of such new nuclear power generation facility.

Adopted by the _____ County Board of Commissioners on this _____ day of _____, 2025.

By and on behalf of the _____ County Board of Commissioners:

Hon. xx, 2025 Chair, Board of Commissioners

Attest:

xx, County xx