

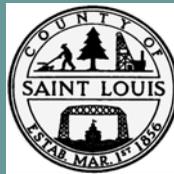
Quick facts about ESD programs:

- How much garbage goes into the landfill each year?
  - 55,000 tons of waste is landfilled each year in St. Louis County.
- How much is recycled through curbside and blue-bin collections?
  - Approximately 5,500 tons of mixed recyclables are collected for recycling through the County's program
- How much of the garbage that was landfilled could have been recycled in the existing County program?
  - We estimate that approximately 44% of the waste that is buried in the landfill could be reclaimed through our standard recycling program. If it was all recycled we could reduce our local greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of taking 17,388 cars off the road per year.
- How many pounds of hazardous waste are collected from St. Louis County residents each year?
  - Around 170,000 pounds of hazardous wastes from households is collected through our programs each year.
- How many septic systems are there in St. Louis County?
  - There are about 30,000 septic systems in St. Louis County.
- Do I need to have my septic system inspected before I sell my home?
  - At the point of sale of your property you will need to have your system certified by a licensed inspector.

## St. Louis County Environmental Services Department

- **Septic System Permitting**
- **Solid Waste and Recycling**

### An introduction to our services and programs



St. Louis County  
Environmental Services Department

307 First St. S., Ste. 115  
Virginia, MN 55792  
[www.stlouiscounty.org/recycle](http://www.stlouiscounty.org/recycle)

Phone: 218.749.9703 - 800.450.9278  
Fax: 218-749-0650

St. Louis County  
Environmental Services Department

Phone: 218.749.9703— 800.450.9278

## St. Louis County Environmental Services Department

In January, 2007 the St. Louis County Solid Waste Department was renamed the Environmental Services Department (ESD), integrating on-site waste water programs with the solid waste and recycling services.

The central office of the ESD is located in the Northland Office Center in downtown Virginia. A branch of the Septic Division is located in Duluth at Suite 300, 325 West First Street. These locations are convenient for residents and for working with the County Auditor's office, the Health and Planning Departments, and the County Courthouses. The Department also promotes and facilitates upon request, waste reduction activities for all County departments and agencies.

Activities of the Environmental Services Department are overseen by the County Board of Commissioners and its Solid Waste and Septic Subcommittees. Both of these Subcommittees are comprised of four St. Louis County Commissioners. The 2010 membership is as follows:

Commissioner Mike Forsman, District 4  
Commissioner Peg Sweeney, District 5  
Commissioner Keith Nelson, District 6  
Commissioner Steve Raukar, District 7

### Department contact information:

Ted Troolin, Director [troolint@co.st-louis.mn.us](mailto:troolint@co.st-louis.mn.us) 218-749-0639  
Terry Soderberg, Deputy Director [soderbergt@co.st-louis.mn.us](mailto:soderbergt@co.st-louis.mn.us) 218-749-9744  
Main office: 218-749-9703 or 800-450-9278  
Septic Permitting information: 218-749-0625 or 218-725-5282

Web sites: [www.stlouiscounty.org/recycle](http://www.stlouiscounty.org/recycle)  
[www.stlouiscounty.org/septic](http://www.stlouiscounty.org/septic)

## Septic System Permitting



The On-site Waste Water Division (Septic System Permitting) provides county-wide permitting and certification of individual septic systems in order to ensure water quality and human health.

The Septic System Division has staff in three locations, Duluth, Ely and Virginia, who work closely with the Planning Department on land use issues such as land use permits, variances, and property subdivision.

The primary guidance document for Septic Permitting is Ordinance 55 which follows State of Minnesota statutes by regulating the design, location, installation, alteration, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of all individual sewage treatment systems. Proper wastewater treatment minimizes the risk of spreading communicable diseases and may prevent other health and ecologic hazards attributable to bacterial and chemical contamination of lands and waters. Staff can provide property owners with the guidance on the requirements for the design, inspection, installation, or operation of their system.

## Solid Waste and Recycling

In the portion of St. Louis County outside the metropolitan Duluth area there are 78 organized and 44 unorganized townships and 20 cities served by the ESD Solid Waste (SW) Division. Currently the SW Division operates 20 canister sites and 5 transfer facilities placed in convenient locations around the County. Waste from those facilities is transferred to the Regional Landfill near Virginia. The Landfill was constructed in 1993 as an EPA Subtitle D facility for disposal of solid waste generated by the more than 39,000 households and businesses within the SW Division's Solid Waste Management Area. The SW Division also manages operation of a demolition debris disposal system, two Household Hazardous Waste facilities and mobile collection system, and 48 recycling drop-off sites, and oversees curb-side recycling in five cities. The County has a recycling processing facility and contracts for processing of recyclable materials generated in curbside and roll-off recycling programs.

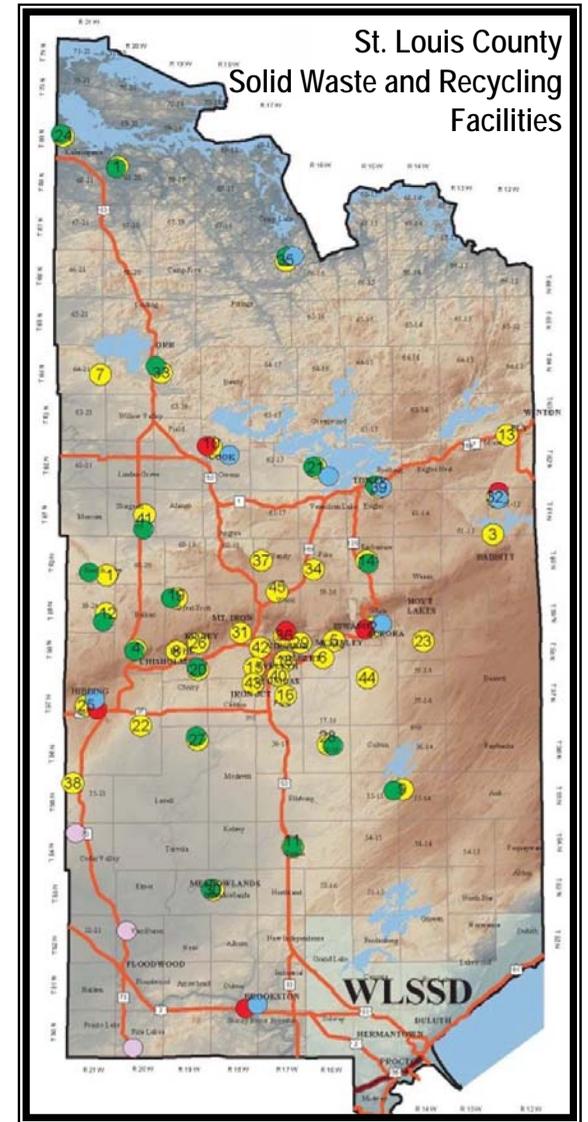
Many special wastes pose health and environmental concerns if disposed of improperly. The Solid Waste Division provides a means of disposal for special



waste items that are restricted by law from being placed into the landfill. These items include appliances, fluorescent tubes, tires, scrap metal, car batteries, used motor oil and filters. The SW Division accepts these special wastes at no charge from residential customers. Where regulations allow, some special wastes are also accepted from businesses.

The management of solid waste is regulated through State law and rules set out by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The SW Division updates Solid Waste Ordinance 45 to more closely reflect any changes in these statutes and rules. Complaints about illegal dumping and other solid waste compliance issues are handled through the SW Division, which has a cooperative agreement with the County Sheriff's Office for enforcement of the Solid Waste Ordinance 45.

Funding for operations of County solid waste disposal facilities is raised through tipping fees for disposal of municipal solid waste, demolition debris, ash and industrial solid waste. Other program funding is generated through the Solid Waste Service Fee assessed to improved properties located within the SW Division's service area. In addition, the Division receives funding from the State for some recycling costs. The County must meet state mandates for recycling rates and waste reduction to continue to receive the recycling allotment from the State of Minnesota through SCORE funding.



St. Louis County  
Environmental Services Department

307 First St. S., Ste. 115  
Virginia, MN 55792  
[www.stlouiscounty.org/recycle](http://www.stlouiscounty.org/recycle)

Phone: 218.749.9703 - 800.450.9278  
Fax: 218-749-0650