



Authorization to add 6 FTEs for new Recycling Zone Plus (RZP) operations and amend Environmental Resources 2026 Operating Budget

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Overview



- Project update
- Visible county service
- Program impacts
- Metro county comparison
- Staffing for operations
- Budget impact
- Questions and direction

Project update



Recycling Zone Plus in partnership with Scott County

**November
2025**

Construction
Contract

**February
2026**

JPA and
operations
agreement
with Scott
County

March 2026

Development
agreement
with City of
Lakeville

April 2026

Construction
starts

April 2026

Groundbreaking
(4/29)

**Spring
2027**

Open for
operations

Visible county service



2025 Dakota County Resident Survey recorded highest average rating for a county service provided by recent users at the Recycling Zone at 77%.



Program impacts

- Second facility added to county HHW program.
- First facility requiring county to staff and operate.
 - 43,800 additional residents annually with 47,700 visiting the Recycling Zone (RZ).
 - 1.7 million pounds more waste to manage annually
- Staffing needed for new facility.



Metro county comparison



- Dakota County is:
 - open 5 more hours per week,
 - estimating 16% more residents and 32% more waste,
 - proposing 3.5 less FTEs (hybrid of county and contractor)



Staffing for operations



- Current HHW program has 1.5 county FTEs
 - 6 new county full-time equivalents (FTEs) needed in 2026
 - 1 Environmental Resources Supervisor \$125,517, 8 mo.
 - 2 Environmental Specialists \$214,362, 8 mo.
 - 3 Environmental Technicians \$78,802, 1 mo.
- | | |
|--------|-----------------|
| Total: | \$418,681 (ELF) |
|--------|-----------------|
- 2027 anticipated cost: \$727,039 (ELF)
 - Issuing Request for Proposals for contractor staff in 2026
 - Estimate 5 contracted chemists

Requested action



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Questions

