

Mayors and City Managers,

In February 2023, the Minnesota State Legislature passed a historic Clean Energy Bill, which will redefine HERC as a non-renewable energy source starting in 2040. Currently, the HERC processes 365,000 tons of trash annually and produces 200,000 megawatt hours of electricity every year. Connected to this, a staff report and briefing were prepared for the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, including a unanimously passed Board Action Request authored by commissioners.

Per the passage of Resolution 23-0384 R1 by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners during their October 24, 2023 meeting, this communication is to provide cities that use the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) with relevant information and to invite partnership. The resolution specifically relates to the closure of HERC between 2028 and 2040. The HERC has been operational since the 1980's. The facility incinerates trash and converts it to steam energy. There are many steps that need to be taken by Federal, State, County and City governments before closure can happen.

With this resolution, Hennepin is moving forward toward a zero-waste future. We look forward to remaining in partnership with the State of Minnesota as we collectively and aggressively work to meet the vision of the Clean Energy Bill. And we ask you, as cities, to take bold and concrete actions in anticipation of the HERC's closure and to use this opportunity to accelerate recycling and zero-waste programs, while creating alternative plans for waste management.

Attached to this email, in addition to the resolution, you will find relevant documents including a report fully outlining the role of HERC in the solid waste system, a summary of recommendations, and Hennepin County's Zero Waste and Climate Action plans. These materials will also be sent to your office via U.S. Mail.

As stated in the Resolution, we are requesting cities submit input by January 15, 2024. You can provide feedback via:

U.S. Mail:

**Maria Rose – Clerk to the County Board
Hennepin County
300 South Sixth Street
Ste A2400
Minneapolis, MN 55487**

Or email:

county.board@hennepin.us

Thank you.



Irene Fernando
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, Chair



David J. Hough
Hennepin County Administrator

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