

# *City of the Village of Minnetonka Beach*

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January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Irene Fernando, Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, Chair  
David J. Hough, Hennepin County Administrator

SENT VIA EMAIL: [board.clerk@hennepin.us](mailto:board.clerk@hennepin.us)

Chair Fernando and Administrator Hough -

This letter is in response to your November 3, 2023 request for input on Hennepin County Board of Commissioners Resolution 23-0384 and proposed closing of the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) between 2028 and 2040. The letter packet included three documents that were very helpful in understanding the complexity and risks of closing HERC.

1. THE HENNEPIN ENERGY RECOVERY CENTER and its role in the solid waste system
2. The County's Climate Action Plan
3. The County's Zero Waste Plan

## **Minnetonka Beach is opposed to the facility closing before 2040.**

Shutting down HERC without having a replacement technology for its "Waste to Energy" model jeopardizes over four decades of Hennepin County led progress in reducing the volume of trash going to landfills.

Before deciding to implement such a risky strategy we urge the County to:

1. As in the early 1980s, take a lead in developing strategies and tactics at the State and Federal level at reducing the amount of waste material being created upstream. Packaging, take-out food service, plastic liquid holders and shift to on line shopping are a few examples.
2. Research new technologies and best practices that cities throughout the country are using.
3. Work with metropolitan cities and consumers to continue to improve the current recycling process. Organics to compost is one.

To that point, Minnetonka Beach welcomes the invitation to "partnership" and would like to hear more about the "opportunity to accelerate recycling and zero-waste programs". Our village of 230 homes represents less than one-tenth of one percent of the homes served by HERC. However we believe that every home can have a positive impact on protecting the environment. The attached PDF was included in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Utility Bills Mailing and is indicative of Minnetonka Beach's commitment.

Minnetonka Beach appreciates the opportunity to provide input, looks forward to reviewing the County Administrator's February 1<sup>st</sup> Proposal for closing HERC. The expectation is for the concerns and suggestions from the metropolitan HERC cities will be addressed in the Proposal.

Joseph S. Pagano  
Mayor, City of the Village of Minnetonka Beach  
on behalf of the Minnetonka Beach City Council

CC: City Councils of Deephaven, Excelsior, Hopkins, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, Osseo, Robbinsdale, Richfield, St. Bonifacius, Tonka Bay, Wayzata, Minnetonka, Long Lake, Orono, Shorewood, Woodland, Greenwood