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RESOURCE  
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# Municipal Waste Combustors A Promising Environmental Method to Mitigate PFAS

2026 SWAA Winter Training



# Blueprint Initiatives



- Develop plans for monitoring PFAS at permitted landfills
- Monitoring PFAS at NPDES-permitted facilities
- **Add PFAS to facility's Minnesota Air Emissions Inventory**
- What is needed
  - Collect statewide data from regulated facilities

# Data Request from Facilities

- 163 facilities with air permits, identified by MPCAs
  - (these facilities regularly conduct stack testing)
- **Voluntarily** report air emissions of the 50 PFAS target analytes
- What type of data can be used?
  - CEMS data (continuous emissions monitoring)
  - **Stack testing** (OTM-45, measures 49 PFAS)
  - Process samples, mass balance calculations
  - Emission factors developed for similar sources
- Best available “preferred” method is stack testing

# Facility Testing

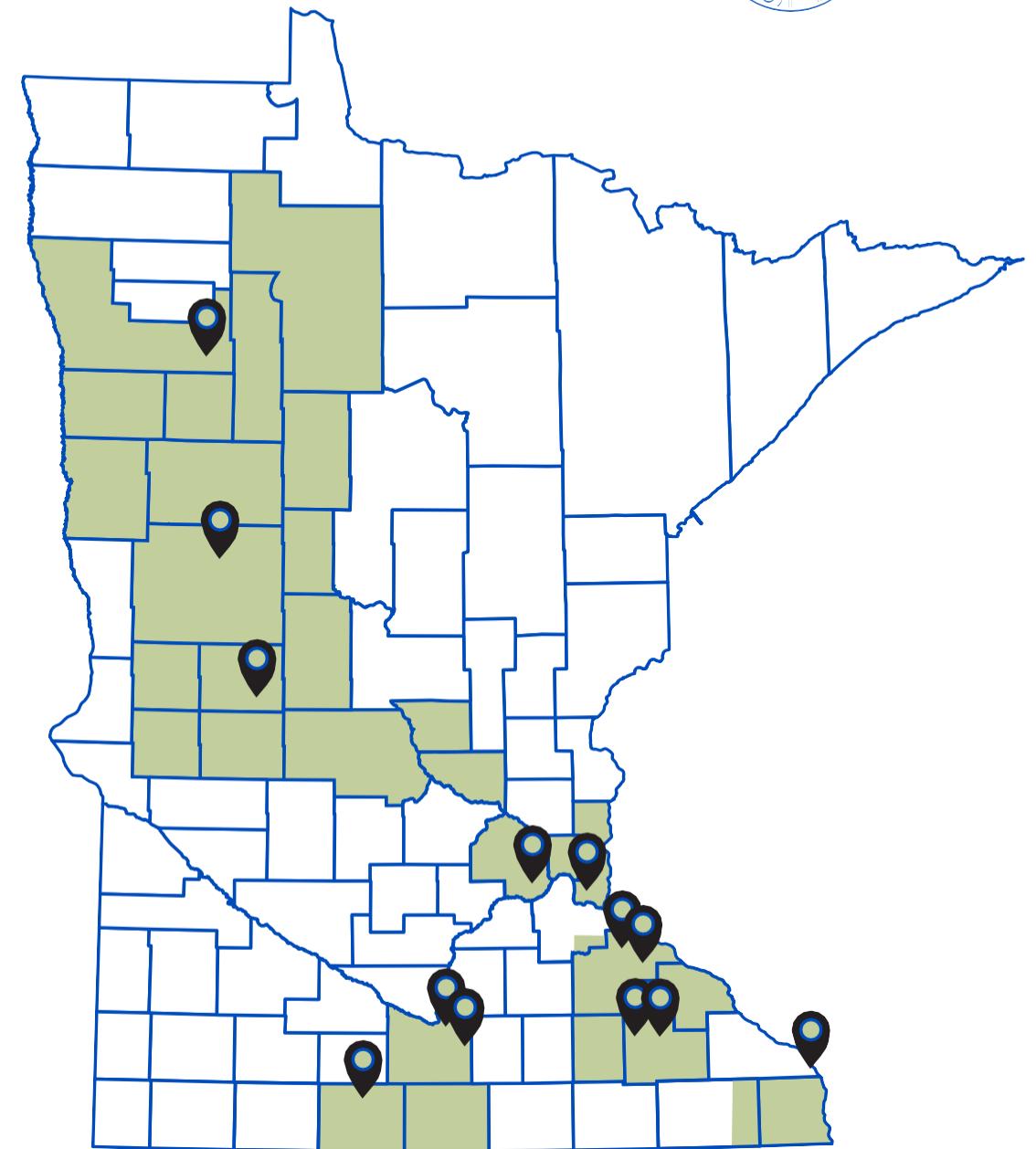
## Three Public Facilities Tested

- Representative Combustion Technology
- Representative Pollution Control Technology
- Geographical Representation

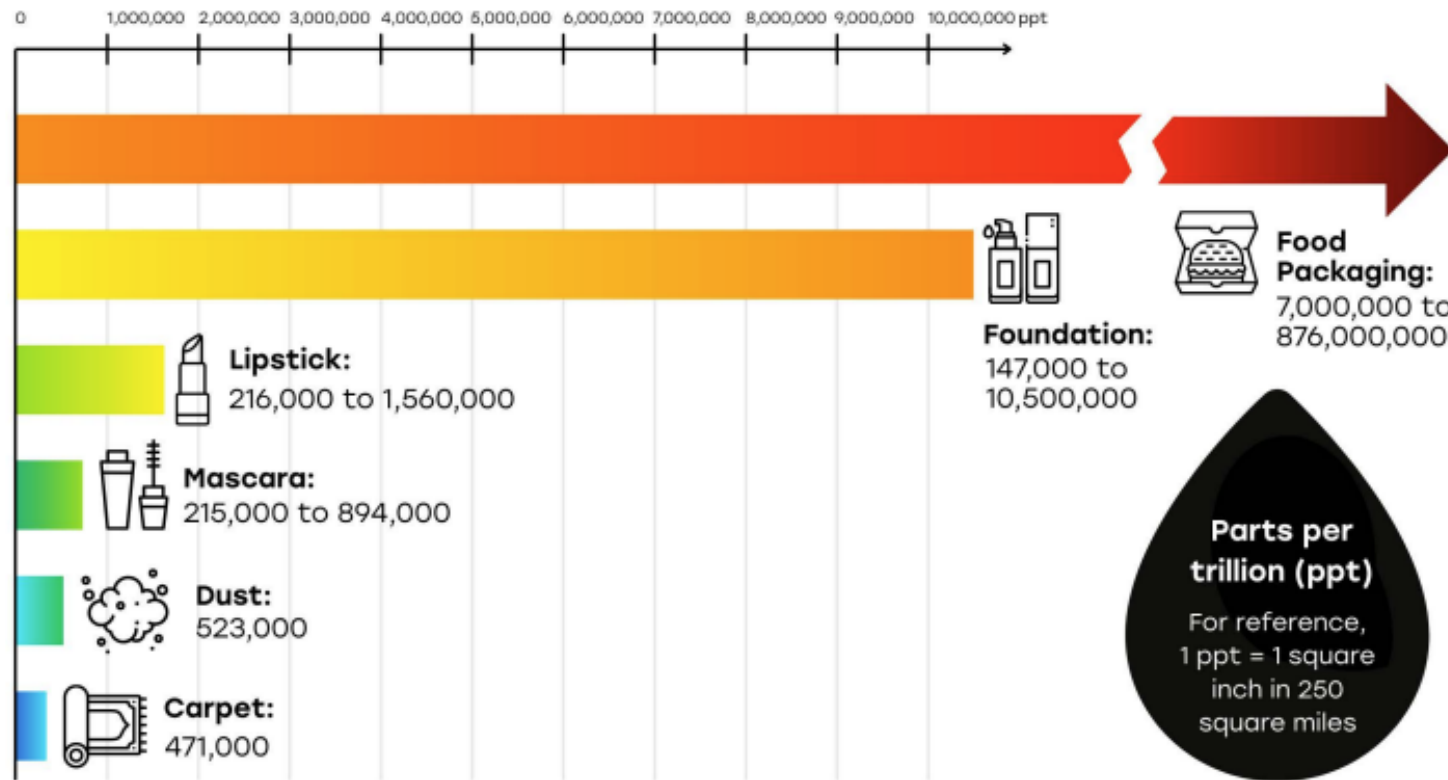
Testing During 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024

Air Emission Stack Testing

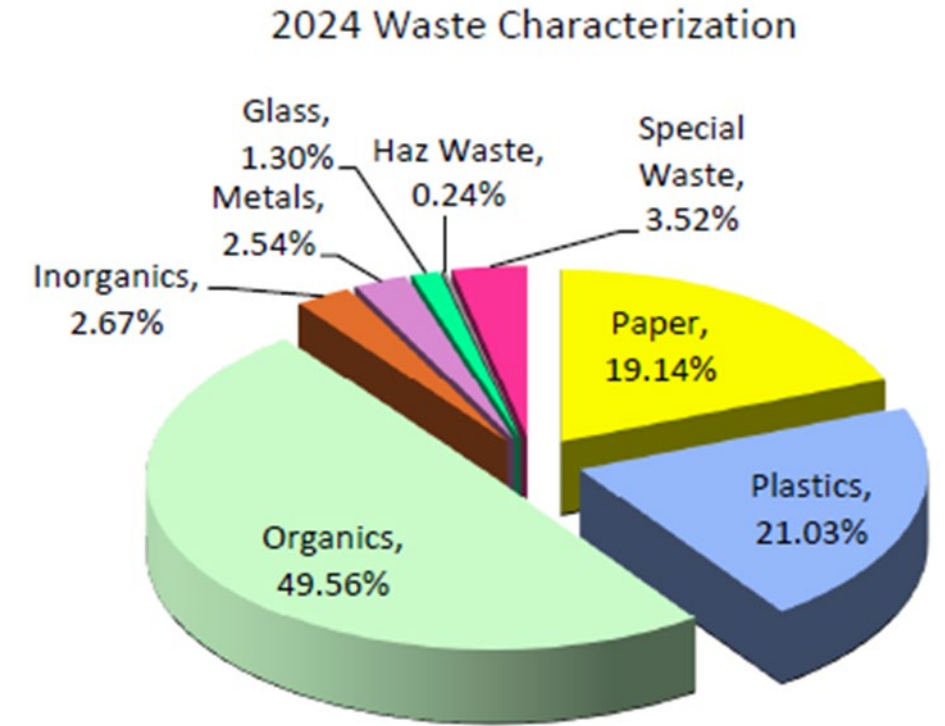
Residual Combustion Ash Testing



# PFAS in MSW



**References**  
Cosmetics - Environmental Science & Technology (June 15, 2021) | Food Wrappers - Consumer Reports (May 2022) | Carpets & Dust - 2018 data published in Chemosphere (May 14, 2020)



\*Olmsted County Waste Composition Study, 2024



**100,000 grams to 372,000 grams per year Through Minnesota Resource Recovery Facilities (1 Million Tons of Waste):**

# Testing Results

Minimal Detections

Representative Samples

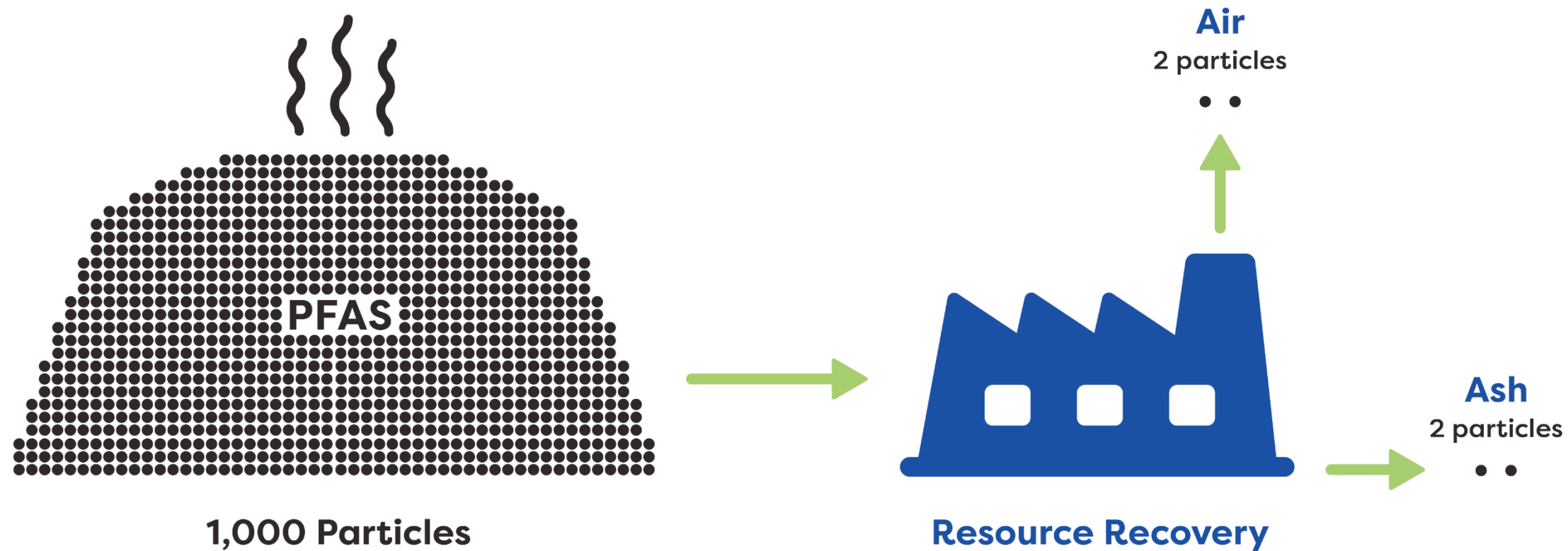
## Air Testing:

Average 144 micrograms PFAS per ton MSW

## Ash Testing:

Average 140 micrograms PFAS per ton MSW

# Resource recovery processes effectively destroy 99.6% to 99.97% of PFAS particles



# Additional Assessment



Xcel Energy: 145 micrograms of PFAS/ton of MSW



Health Standards  
Comparison (MN Dept.  
of Health)

10 – 1000 times lower  
than MDH Risk  
Assessment Advice  
level



Elevated Temperatures = Thermal  
Destruction



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# PFAS

Human-made, industrial,  
long-lasting chemicals



PFAS emitted into  
our air, soil, water  
and communities



## Resource Recovery

99.6% - 99.97% of PFAS  
effectively eliminated



# Questions



## Contact Information:

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