



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

**WASTE WISE**

# 2022

## Waste Wise

# Annual Report

# Our Impact



**1,444** site visits conducted with businesses, nonprofits, multi-unit properties, and schools in **89** cities.



**1,202** participants received **2,382** instances of technical assistance from Waste Wise.



**5,808** phone calls and emails sent to potential participants to provide information about available assistance.



**221** waste reduction grants funded and **388** recycling resource grants distributed.



**\$1,631,348** grant dollars awarded.



**2,610,503** pounds of waste diverted from landfills and incinerators.



# A Note from the Executive Director



At Minnesota Waste Wise, we are honored to leverage our expertise and experience to help the state's business community thrive by improving the environmental health and economic vitality of our communities. By facilitating sustainability principles at Minnesota-based businesses and organizations, we help foster practices that are good for business and good for the environment.

As we look back at 2022, we can certainly note challenges; COVID-19 persists, many businesses find themselves understaffed and the costs of goods and services increased or remained volatile due to ongoing supply chain disruptions. However, no year is without adversity. Our outlook is steadfastly positive, and the free assistance we provide may be even more valuable to businesses amidst the multitude of internal and external impacts. The future is bright for Minnesota Waste Wise. Our team continues to grow – we added a dedicated Outreach Coordinator and saw immediate impact and success with our business engagement efforts. Our waste reduction services made possible through proud partnerships (both public and private) continue to provide us a foundation of work and success, and the numbers in this report demonstrate the impact we've had helping businesses waste less, recycle more materials, recover more food, and invest in reuse. Building on that foundation, though, are new and innovative programs including MNimize, a recognition-based program in partnership with Hennepin County to reduce single-use plastics across the food service industry. We are excited to see where the coming years take MNimize and Waste Wise as our organization discovers more inroads to serve the business community.

It has been a pleasure working with a diverse group of businesses and organizations throughout Minnesota this past year, and we look forward to continuing this work in 2023.

A handwritten signature in white ink, which appears to read "Rob Friend". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

**Rob Friend**  
Executive Director



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

## **WASTE WISE**

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### **Executive Director**

Rob Friend

### **Program Managers**

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### **Outreach Coordinator**

Jessie Hendrix

### **Senior Sustainability Specialists**

Hannah Bohn  
Maddy Hoensheid  
Jasmine Jones  
Adam Mehr  
Bonnie Nord  
Elizabeth Walsh

### **Sustainability Specialists**

Meg Hannasch  
Alboury Ndiaye  
Madeleine Partch  
Lauren Rogers  
Gabi Rosenthal  
Keely Schultz  
Karre Wagner