

# MN WASTE WISE SUCCESS STORY

## CO-OP PARTNERS WAREHOUSE



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
**WASTE WISE**

**Co-op Partners Warehouse (CPW)** is a certified-organic, wholesale distributor of organic produce and local foods across the Midwest. While CPW donates any salvageable foods they can, due to the volume of food they process and distribute, CPW was still finding their organics dumpster full multiple times a week. This meant organics overflow was ending up in the trash. So, when Erin Pavlica joined CPW's Quality Control team, she made a personal goal that CPW would not throw any food away.

With that goal in mind, Pavlica and Operations Manager Kirk Sorenson applied for a grant through the BizRecycling program to obtain additional organics and recycling bins to increase their capacity to divert waste.

Since implementing these changes, CPW has obtained a second organics dumpster and reduced their frequency of trash pick-ups. They estimate these changes will allow them to divert an additional 83,200 pounds of organics annually and achieve a savings of about \$3,000 in reduced trash costs.

Pavlica, who has since been promoted to Quality Control Sustainability Shift Lead and is a co-founder of Zero Waste Saint Paul, says they have nearly accomplished their goal of zero food waste-to-landfill. "I'm a huge proponent of BizRecycling," she says, "I probably recommend it to someone about once a week!"

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **83,200 lbs.** of organics diverted from the landfill annually
- **\$3,000** annual cost savings due to reduction in trash pick-ups

