

# Tips for Working with State Agencies

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Minnesota Pollution  
Control Agency

## Similar Reuse Opportunities as NC

- Construction reuse
- Architectural salvage
- Traditional charitable reuse
- Food Rescue (Second Harvest)
- Electronics refurbishment (Asset Recovery, etc.)
- State Reuse Center
- About 60 HHW most of which have product reuse areas
- Commercial reuse: antiques, sporting goods, etc.

# Materials Exchange

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Minnesota Materials Exchange - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar displays "http://minexchange.org/index.html". The browser's menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Favorites", "Tools", and "Help". The Favorites bar shows several links, including "Good Donor", "Minnesota Materials Exch...", and "MSTAB".

The website content features the University of Minnesota logo at the top left. A navigation menu on the left includes links for "About Us", "Search Listings", "Create a Listing", "Edit/Delete Listings", "Edit Your Profile", "Report an Exchange", "Emailed Listings", "Guidelines", "FAQs", and "Other Exchanges/Resources". Below this menu is contact information for the "Minnesota Technical Assistance Program": "612.624.1300" and "800.247.0015".

The main content area has a red banner with the text "Minnesota Materials Exchange" and a sub-headline: "Providing a business-reuse network—linking organizations that have reusable goods they no longer need to those who can use them." Below the banner is a photograph of a person working with equipment.

The page is divided into several sections:

- Search Listings:** A section with the text "To find a specific listing, enter the Listing Number. Or, enter a keyword to search either the available or the wanted listings." It includes a "Listing Number" search box and a "Keyword" search box. There are radio buttons for "Available" and "Wanted", and a "Search" button.
- Newest Listings Email:** A section with the text "Sign up to receive the newest listings by email. Twice a month a list of the newest available and wanted materials are sent by email." It includes a "Sign up" link.
- Report an Exchange:** A section with the text "Tell us about your exchanges. We use the data you report to show our funders how well the program is working. Keep telling us about these exchanges so we can ensure that the program stays around." It includes a "Report an Exchange" link.
- Manage My Listings:** A section with a "User ID" input field, a "Password" input field, and a "Log in" button.

A server status message is displayed: "We are currently experiencing difficulty with our server. While this is being repaired you may experience periods of time when the exchange is down. We apologize for any inconvenience." The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Internet" and "100%".



GoodDonor.org

# Hennepin County's Choose to Reuse



- Coupons
- Online directory
- Donation guide
- Multiple languages
- Expanding

## Tip: Find Statutory Support

**§ 115A.02:** Waste management practices are in order of preference:

- (1) waste reduction and reuse;
- (2) waste recycling;
- (3) composting of source-separated compostable materials, including but not limited to, yard waste and food waste;
- (4) resource recovery through mixed municipal solid waste composting or incineration;
- (5) land disposal which produces no measurable methane gas or which involves the retrieval of methane gas as a fuel for the production of energy; and
- (6) land disposal which produces measurable methane and which does not involve the retrieval of methane gas.

### **Administrative Rule 7035.0350**

...The agency supports the management of solid waste in accordance with the goals stated in Minnesota Statutes, section [115A.02](#), paragraph (a), which emphasize reducing toxicity and volume of wastes. In recognition that wastes may have value and should be viewed as a resource, **the goal of solid waste management should be to use wastes for their highest and best value and to dispose of them only after other feasible options have been evaluated or for environmental protection.**

## Tip: Find the Money (Grants)

### Environmental Assistance Grants

- Past Examples:
  - Funded start of the ReUse Center for building materials.
  - Funded reusable/refillable bulk supply system for dairies.

# Present Example: Move In Move Out

**mimo**

ComoGreenVillage.org

Sponsored by SECIA, the MPCA, &  
U of M Facilities Management

The MIMO neighborhood free store will be held again at the University of Minnesota's Reuse Warehouse located at [883 29th Ave. SE., 55414](http://883.29th.Ave.SE.,.55414)

**Hours of Operation:**  
Will open again May 13, 2011

*We reserve the right to limit shoppers to 3 items. Those donating items may be eligible to receive more items. The store is being made available to University students and SE Minneapolis residents. Shoppers may be asked to show proof of address or a student ID. Decisions will be made toward the end of the store about opening it up to more people. Contact the SECIA office to find out more.*



## Future Example

### Reuse Sector Collaboration Project

- ARC Value Village
- Institute for Local Self Reliance and Reuse Alliance

## Tip: Find the Money (Loans)

### Start something!

- Revolving loan pot of about \$200,000 for help with environmental capital improvements.

## Tip: Come from many angles

- Reuse/Recycling
- P2
- Sector-specific
- Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs

## Tip: Find the People

1. Find a contact. Most states have someone (MN has Source Reduction team).
2. Many names: Waste reduction, waste minimization, waste prevention, source reduction, reuse, recycling.
3. Call with your ideas. (We don't know your business.)
4. Keep in touch. (We don't get out much.)
5. Think beyond your business – partnerships, bigger implications, “lift all boats”.
6. Ask “What would help?”
7. Offer to be a pilot or test case and share data.

**Grazie!**

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