

# Organics Recycling in Dakota County Multiunit Residential Buildings



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## Where???

- **Apartments** – The Reserve at Mendota
- **Condominiums** – Lexington Riverside
- **Senior Living** – The Arbors at Ridges



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## The Reserve at Mendota

- **New Construction**
  - 2 Chutes, Cardboard Dumpster, Organics Dumpster
- **Recycling Totes to all Residents**
- **Countertop Composters to Opt-In Residents**
- **In-Person Education, Recycling Lease Language**
- **Created a Culture of Sustainability**
- **15,600 lbs. Organics Diversion**
- **69,680 lbs. Recycling Diversion**



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## Lexington Riverside



- **Primarily Owner Occupied Condos**
  - Older Population, Highly Engaged Board
  - Solo Trash Chute, Recycling and Organics in Garage
- **Two Phase Implementation – Recycling then Organics**
- **Recycling Totes all Residents**
- **In-Person Education Events, Ongoing Resident Engagement**
- **Board Approved Organics Addition with Existing Hauler**
  - Countertop Composters and Bags to Opt-In Residents

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## Arbors at Ridges

- **Senior Living Facility**
  - Trash Chute with Recycling Cart in ‘Trash Room’
  - Employees and Residents
- **Recycling Totes all Residents**
- **Organics in Back of House (Kitchen) Areas Only**
- **Bins/Signs for Common Areas and Back of House Provided**
- **In-Person Education Sessions for Residents, Nurses, Custodial, Kitchen, and Office Staff**
- **Organics Services Added w/ Existing Hauler**



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## Challenges

- **Contamination**
- **Participation**
- **Concerns over smell**
- **Ongoing Education (Management Commitment/Turnover)**



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## Successes

- **Documented Diversion**
- **Well Received Trainings and Door Knocking**
- **Employee Acceptance**
- **Increased Monitoring of all Waste Streams**



**MINNESOTA  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

**GROWING MINNESOTA**

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## Lessons Learned

- **Door to Door = Greatest Resident Contact**
- **Constant Ongoing Messaging is Needed**
- **Must be Buy-in on All Levels**
- **Works Best as a Resident Led Initiative**
- **Culture Shifts Take Time**
- **Kids Teach Parents**