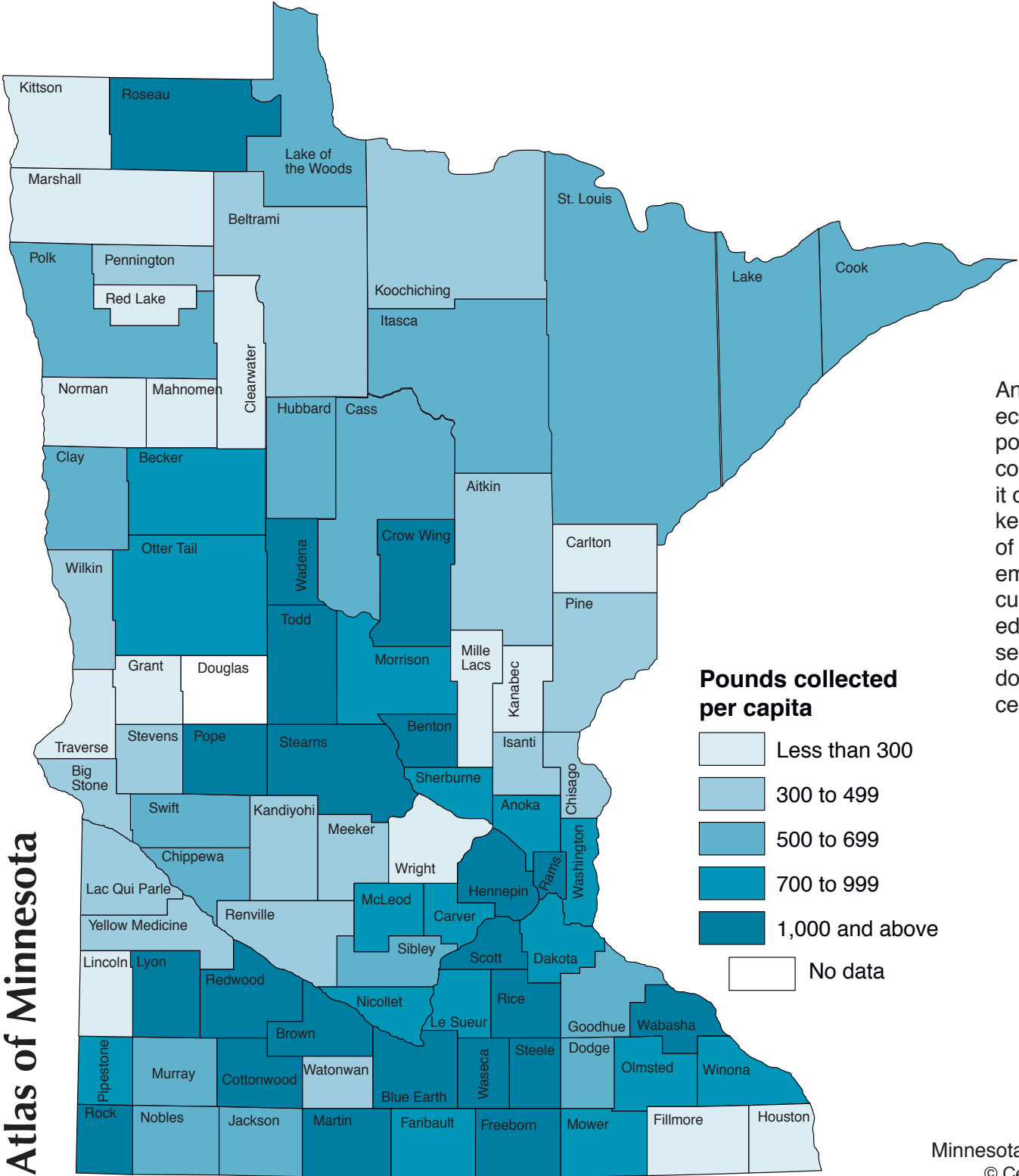


Recycling, 2006



An important factor in recycling is economies of scale: the sparser the population, the more difficult it is to collect recyclables, especially when it comes to curbside pickup. Other key factors can be the commitment of the recycling staff and whether it employs convenient drop-off sites, curbside pickup and public education, which may explain why several of the top recycling counties do not have large population centers.