

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Environmental Policy Board (EPB)
Monday March 5, 2012
6:30 pm
Mississippi River Room, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Citizen Input**
3. **Approve Agenda**
4. **Approve Minutes**
 1. Approve Meeting Minutes Dated February 6, 2012
5. **Policy Board Business**
 1. Environmental Expo Event
6. **Board/Staff Input**
 - EAB Joint Workshop March 29, 2012 (6pm at Andover City Hall)
7. **Adjournment**

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

4. 1.

Meeting Date: 03/05/2012

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Title:

Approve Meeting Minutes Dated February 6, 2012

Attachments

Draft Meeting Minutes Dated February 2, 2012

Form Review

Inbox
Chris Anderson (Originator)

Reviewed By
Chris Anderson

Date
03/01/2012 06:05 PM
Started On: 03/01/2012 02:27 PM

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 03/01/2012

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

On Monday, February 6, 2012, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Mississippi River Conference Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Vice Chairperson Thomas Stodola
Board Member Bob Bentz
Board Member John Enstrom

Members Absent: Chairperson Michael Max

Also Present: Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Stodola called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Board Member Bentz and seconded by Board Member Enstrom to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chairperson Stodola, Board Members Bentz and Enstrom. Voting No: None. Absent: Chairperson Max.

APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD MINUTES

Motion by Board Member Enstrom and seconded by Board Member Bentz to approve the regular meeting minutes dated January 9, 2012.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chairperson Stodola, Board Members Bentz and Enstrom. Voting No: None. Absent: Chairperson Max.

POLICY BOARD BUSINESS

Case #1: Establishment of 'Mini Arboretum' in North Commons

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Member Enstrom stated he was opposed to seeking grant funding to plant trees. He stated that the City needed to learn to live within its means.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that there is no required matching component for this grant.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he thought that Connexus should be responsible for purchasing and installing all the trees because of all the removals they've done along their transmission lines.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that Connexus had not done anything illegal with regard to their vegetation management practices. While people may disagree with their practices, they have easements that were obtained lawfully and they have the right to remove vegetation within the easement areas. The City cannot require them to participate in this project.

Board Member Enstrom stated his displeasure with finding out about this grant opportunity with less than two weeks before it was due.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he was not aware of this opportunity at the time of the Board's January meeting. He stated that this was the first opportunity to apprise the Board of the grant round. He continued by stating that City Council authorized Staff to apply for this funding at their January 24, 2012 meeting.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he believes that even if Connexus cannot be required to participate, the City should shame them into participating.

Board Member Bentz stated that he did not believe that made any sense as Connexus is a large employer within the City and they do a lot of work with other environmental aspects such as energy efficient lighting, alternative forms of energy etc.

Board Member Enstrom stated that if the adjacent neighborhood wanted to see trees planted so badly that they should purchase the trees themselves or they should apply for the grant themselves and the City's only involvement should be to develop the planting plan.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that they would not qualify as an eligible recipient of this funding and therefore cannot apply for it themselves. Also, since the City would use the grant money for the purchase of trees and utilize volunteers, including the neighborhood residents, it seems like there would be little if any difference in cost for the City.

Board Member Enstrom stated he thinks this should be developed as a memorial park in which residents pay for and install trees over time. He doesn't see any need to apply for funding to plant trees at that location.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that this project seemed to accomplish many things and that he thought it was a win-win for everybody. He said that it addresses a desire of the adjacent neighborhood to see some improvements there, establishing a

mini arboretum is an action item of the Board's work plan, it would include ongoing education with signage, and City Council has already authorized staff to pursue this funding. He stated that he was bringing this to the Board's attention for informational purposes and to receive any suggested feedback on species.

Board Member Enstrom again stated his opposition to this project.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that his opposition has been duly noted but it seemed contradictory to the Board's work plan. If he's opposed to the establishment of a mini arboretum, he may wish to consider making a motion to remove that from the work plan.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he's not opposed to the work plan item; he just opposes applying for grant money to plant trees at this site.

Vice Chairperson Stodola asked Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson if he had noted Board Member Enstrom's concerns in the minutes.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he believes he has. He stated that he tries to capture the basis of discussions at every meeting and if there's ever any concern that the minutes aren't representative of a discussion, prior to approving those minutes, Board Members can request amendments.

Vice Chairperson Stodola asked Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson if there was anything more he needed from the Board related to this case.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that there was nothing more unless there were any comments about species.

There were no specific comments regarding species and consensus was to move on to the next case.

Case #2 Environmental Expo Event

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the staff report.

Board Member Enstrom provided an update about a possible birding component for the expo event. Promoting the event was going to be critical. He has a tentative confirmation from national birding expert Mike Freiburg to lead multiple bird walks at Board Member Enstrom's property the day of the event. Nikon would cover the travel expenses for Mr. Freiburg, but to do that, there needs to be a retail component also.

Board Member Enstrom stated that he has a tentative commitment from Joe's Sporting Goods for the retail aspect of the birding component. He also stated that Mike Freiburg has agreed to come back to the Municipal Center to give a presentation.

Board Member Bentz asked if the presentation should focus more on birds from Minnesota or from around the world.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he thought it might be best to start with at least those birds common in the upper Midwest and then expand out to more exotic species.

Board Member Enstrom stated that no pets would be allowed on the bird walk. Also, he would need an insurance waiver from the City if this were to be on his property. He also mentioned that while much of the Nikon equipment is fairly costly, Nikon is offering \$500 rebates through the first part of May, which might help convince people to buy something.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated he was a bit concerned about the event getting somewhat stagnant. The addition of the Business Expo was supposed to create some synergy and help grow each event. While there is some benefit with promotion for instance, for the Environmental Expo to grow, it really should be branching out to energy efficient products, septic systems based on the large number of them in the community and both of these fields are more interested, and rightfully so, in the Business Expo because they see it as a possible way to get new customers. He suggested that this year's event may be the last as a stand-alone event and that it may be time to explore other ways to get these messages out to the public, maybe combining with the Business Expo or a component of Happy Days.

Board Member Enstrom stated that there would need to be promotion for the event and that should include both the Anoka Union and Star News. He would explore getting something in other publications also.

Board Member Enstrom stated that there should be some sort of handout outlining what types of wildlife may be seen, things to bring (tick spray, bug spray, camera, etc) and that this should be made available ahead of time.

General consensus was that there could be bird walks at 6am, 7am, 8am, 9am and 10am and then the presentation could be at either 11am or 11:30am.

Vice Chairperson Stodola stated that he had a chance to speak with the manager of Lowes and has gotten confirmation that they can participate in the event with their build and grow wooden kits. They would just need a number of expected kids so that they can order the kits.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson asked if it would have to be at a specific time or just throughout the day. He also stated that, like with the birding component, he's hesitant about setting expectation levels too high.

Vice Chairperson Stodola stated that he would continue to work with Lowes on this component of the event and would follow up with Mr. Anderson so that the info could get into the newsletter.

BOARD/STAFF INPUT

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that he did meet with Staff from Coon Rapids and Anoka last week to discuss a possible joint expo event. They approached the County with the idea but did not receive any positive interest. So, for the time being, we were going to approach the North Suburban Home Improvement organizers about the possibility of incorporating the environmental/sustainable type of expo into that event.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that there are two applicants that have indicated an interest in serving on this Board, amongst others as well. So, even if the two Board Members whose terms are expiring are reappointed, and these two new applicants are appointed, there would still be one vacancy, at least as it stands now.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson stated that with EAB now being confirmed in Shoreview, he and the Natural Resources Technician in Andover have decided to offer another EAB workshop. The workshop will be held March 29 at the Andover City Hall. More information will soon be available through the website.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Board Member Bentz and seconded by Board Member Enstrom to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Anderson
Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator

Environmental Policy Board (EPB)

5. 1.

Meeting Date: 03/05/2012

By: Chris Anderson, Community
Development

Title:

Environmental Expo Event

Background:

Invitations have been sent thus far to fourteen (14) organizations to participate in the expo event. Of those, four (4) have submitted the registration form and committing to the event. Staff has also had correspondence with several others that were contacted who have expressed an interest or willingness to participate in the event but have not yet submitted the requisite paperwork.

The Tree Sale information is available through the City's website now and includes eight (8) species (Paper Birch, Blue Beech, Skyline Honeylocust, Adams Crabapple, Red Jewel Crabapple, Showy Mountain Ash, American Plum, and American Basswood). All trees are of the bareroot variety and range in size from four (4) feet to roughly eight (8) feet in height. There will not be trees available for purchase the day of the event, all sales must be pre-ordered.

Especially with the reduced number of sitting members currently, it may be worthwhile to discuss 'shifts' to staff the Board's booth at the event. Along those same lines, this would be a good time to finalize details for the Board's booth so that the necessary information and materials can be gathered prior to the event. There had previously been some discussion about recycling factoids and invasive species. Attached to this case are some examples of various recycling facts that could be converted into an interactive display. The same could possibly be done with various invasive species found in Ramsey (identification and concerns with them). These are just possible considerations for the Board.

Ramsey Elementary School has agreed to again have their students participate in a coloring contest. Staff will be putting together the necessary information and distributing it to the school later this week (or early part of next week). Typically, there is no specific theme for the contest other than a general theme of nature and the environment. Considering that students ranging from kindergarten to 5th grade participate, a more general theme seems appropriate. But, Staff is open to suggestions from the Board regarding a more specific theme if so desired.

Information regarding the bird walk component was included in the March/April issue of the Ramsey Resident newsletter. However, the build and grow hands-on activity with Lowe's was not because it was unclear, at the time articles were due, whether that was going to come to fruition or not.

Staff is still looking for volunteers that can assist with concessions (had offered it to the Cheerful Chuggers 4-H group but they didn't have enough people to make it work). Also, Staff is still seeking volunteers to assist with the tree sale pick-ups.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board determine who will be staffing the booth and what times, as well as finalizing details for display information for the booth so that it can be assembled in advance.

EPB Action:

Based on discussion.

Exhibitor List and Status

Aluminum Recycling Fact Sheet

Athletic Shoe Recycling Fact Sheet

Battery Recycling Fact Sheet

Carpet Recycling Fact Sheet

E-Waste Fact Sheet

Fluorescent Bulb Recycling Fact Sheet

Glass Recycling Fact Sheet

Plastic Containers Recycling Fact Sheet

Cans and Bottles Top 10

Form Review

Inbox

Chris Anderson (Originator)

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Reviewed By

Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 03/02/2012

Date

03/02/2012 09:37 AM

Started On: 03/01/2012 11:52 AM

2012 Ramsey Environmental Expo Exhibitor List

Company	Contact	Sent Invite	Response	Cost	Activity/Topic	Notes/Requests
Ace Solid Waste	Tracy Hannan	1.30.12	Confirmed	None	Curbside Recycling	Needs 2 tables
Anderson Irrigation Co	Brandon Anderson	2.14.12		None	Rain sensors/irrigation	Would like corner next to lobby area and needs access to electricity
ACD	Kathy Berkness					This is same day as their tree sale pick up
Anoka County Pheasants Forever		1.31.12				Sent an invite through their website.
Anoka Ramsey Farm and Garden	Tony	2.14.12				Sent registration form to Michael Max and asked if he could provide to Tony.
Audubon Center of the Northwoods	Jeff Tyson			??????	Raptors/Reptiles	Corner space needed, would like physical barrier (tables) to keep people from birds, electricity would be helpful
Cedar Creek	Mary Spivey					
CenterPoint Energy	Scott Lehner	2.17.12				
Cheerful Chuggers 4-H Club	Kathy Provance	1.30.12	2.17.12 said they'll do hands on activities but still need reg. form	None	Promote 4-H Activities and hands on how to make corn starch glue	
Connexus Energy	Ken Glaser	1.30.12				
EPB	Michael Max		Confirmed	None		
Geological Society of MN	Doug Zbidowski	2.29.12			Rocks & Fossils Exhibits	Needs 2 5' x 2' tables
GRE Resource Recovery Facility	Brenda Hoskyns				MSW separation display, banner stands, peregrine falcon ppt pres. and DVD movie	
Hostas and More	Karen/Dave Henke	2.29.12		--	Hosta plants and planting education	
LRRWMO	Tim Himmer			None	Watersheds??	
Master Gardeners	Lynne Hagen	2.17.12		None	Ask a Master Gardener booth	
Master Naturalist	Michael Max					
MMCD	Scott Lubarda	2.14.12	Confirmed	None		Needs access to electricity
MN Herpetological Society	Jan Larson	2.29.12			Snakes/reptiles	Still waiting on reservation form
MN Hobby Beekeepers Ass	Cathy Schaefer					
MNRAA / NPS	Lark Weller					
MWWA	Raymond Renner					
Norwex	Malia Rosvold Katie DeVries	2.17.12	confirmed	None	Introduce chemical free cleaning and personal care	Would like 2 tables
Oliver Kelley Farm	Bob Quist	2.17.12				
Prairie Restoration	Mike Evenocheck			--		
Ramsey Garden Club	Donna Nelson	2.17.12	confirmed	--	Promote Garden Club and Plant Sale	
Ramsey Park & Rec Commission	Mark Riverblood			--	Parks info	
Ramsey Tower Community Garden	Kate Baird					



Aluminum Recycling



In Minnesota many companies who accept aluminum cans for recycling prepare and process the cans so that they can be taken to several larger companies who melt down the aluminum and create aluminum can sheets. The sheets of aluminum are then sold in rolls to be re-manufactured into new aluminum cans, as well as many other products.

Where Aluminum Recycling Goes:

- Contact your local solid waste and recycling coordinator to find locations to recycle aluminum and other scrap metal:
 - Go to www.rethinkrecycling.com if you live in the Twin Cities metro.
 - Go to www.recyclemoreminnesota.org if you live in Greater Minnesota.
- **Alter Trading Corp.** (Locations in: Anoka, Hayfield, Marshall, Mankato and St. Paul): Alter Scrap has many locations throughout the Midwest that processes and markets scrap metal collected. www.altertrading.com.
- **Kirschbaum & Krupp Metal Recycling** (Located in Minneapolis): Established in 1959, Kirschbaum & Krupp accepts non-ferrous scrap metal for recycling. www.kirschbaumkrupp.com.

How Aluminum Recycling Helps Minnesota's Economy:

- Recycling aluminum saves 95% of the energy needed to produce new aluminum from raw materials.
- Energy saved from recycling one ton of aluminum is equal to the amount of electricity the average home uses over 10 years!

How Aluminum Recycling Helps Minnesota's Environment:

- Aluminum is a durable and sustainable metal. Over two-thirds of aluminum ever produced is still in use today!
- In 2009, Minnesotans recycled over 38,500 tons of aluminum. By recycling our aluminum cans, Minnesota did not have to mine for 192,500 tons of bauxite ore to make the cans from virgin materials. Using recycled aluminum to make new cans results in huge energy, water, and carbon emission savings.

Recycling Association of Minnesota
852 B East Lake Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391
Office: 952-473-0048 Website: recycleminnesota.org



Athletic Shoe Recycling

About Athletic Shoe Recycling

Athletic shoes sometimes cannot be donated to charity organizations, so what do you do then? The answer is to recycle them. Athletic shoes add bulk to landfills and have material which can be recycled and repurposed into useful items.



There are several programs where you can recycle tennis shoes. The first ongoing program, Run In & Recycle™, was started by RAM partnering with Wiper's Plus and REI stores in 2007. Wiper's Plus collects tennis shoes to be recycled into biodegradable oil spill cleanup kits. On the left is a photo of athletic shoes ready to be recycled at Wipers Plus.

Other items accepted for recycling include: dress shoes, shoes with heels, leather shoes, canvas shoes, cleats, boots, winter boots, and inline skates.

Please do not donate moldy, wet, or footwear with steel toes.

Another program is the NIKE Reuse A Shoe program. Nike collects all brands of athletic shoes (without metal or cleats). The shoes are ground up and made into sport flooring such as basketball courts, playground flooring, tennis courts and tracks. The flooring systems are typically donated to communities.



Where Can I Recycle My Old Shoes?

There are many locations within the metro area to drop off old athletic shoes to be recycled by Wiper's Plus and RAM. To see the list of all items Wiper's Plus accepts for recycling and their drop off locations go to:

http://www.wipersrecycling.com/items_wanted.htm.

Minnesota also has several locations collect shoes for the Nike Reuse A Shoe program. Go to: <http://www.nikereuseashoe.com/get-involved/drop-off-locations?country=US> to see the list.

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Battery Recycling

Once a battery is used up or no longer useful, the battery's chemistry will determine the best way to dispose of it. Look on the battery's label or packaging to identify what it is made of and use the guide to find a safe disposal method.

Many stores that sell electronics or batteries will accept used batteries. Make sure to call before bringing batteries in for recycling. Most counties have household hazardous waste (HHW) collection sites. Go to rethinkrecycling.com or recyclemoreminnesota.org to get contact information for your county solid waste office.

What's the Problem?

In the United States, over two billion batteries are purchased every year. Some of the batteries contain toxic metals like mercury, lead, cadmium, and silver, which can contaminate water and air when they are incinerated or disposed of in landfills. Eventually these toxins will make their way into living tissue and have negative health effects.

Batteries safe to place in the trash:

- Carbon Zinc
- Alkaline- If alkaline batteries were purchased in or before 1993, take them to your HHW collection site.

Description: Mainly produces in A, AA, AAA, C, D, N, 9-volt, and lantern. These batteries are not rechargeable.

Found In: Calculators, portable stereos, radios, compact disc players, most toys, flashlights, smoke detectors, clocks, and other products.

Single-use batteries that need to be taken to retailers or HHW sites:

- Button- Place tape around each button battery
- Lithium- Lithium batteries may be reactive. Place each battery in a separate plastic bag or place electrical tape around the battery terminals.

Description: Lithium batteries are cylindrical and are produced in various sizes. Button batteries may be alkaline, lithium, mercuric oxide, nickel cadmium, silver oxide, or zinc air. They may be combined in stacks to produce cylindrical batteries.

Uses: Photographic and high-drain applications, medical devices, smoke detectors, handheld games, hearing aids, keyless remotes, watches, and other products.

Rechargeable batteries need to be recycled. They include:

- Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd)
- Lithium Ion (Li-ion)
- Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)
- Sealed Lead Acid (Pb)
 - To recycle, check with local stores, or find one by calling the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corp. at 1-800-8-BATTERY or on their website www.rbrc.org.

Description: Mainly produced in the following sizes : D, C, AAA, AA, 9-volt, and battery packs of various shapes and sizes.

Uses: Cell phones, cordless phones, laptop computers, personal care products, power tools, video cameras, and many other products.

Vehicle Batteries need to be recycled:

- Lead Acid- By law, auto battery retailers must take up to five lead acid batteries from consumers free of charge.

Uses: Cars, motorcycles, boats, golf carts, and other large automotive items.

Battery Handling Tips:

- Store batteries in a vented plastic bucket or sturdy cardboard box. Do not place an airtight lid on containers. Battery gases trapped in containers may cause dangerous situations.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after handling batteries, or wear gloves.
- If storing batteries together, place non-conducting, like electrical, tape over the terminals or place batteries in individual plastic bags to prevent short-circuiting.
- Do not attempt to discharge batteries by short-circuiting terminals.
- Older batteries may rust or leak after long periods of storage. If a battery looks dirty or has a white, film-like substance on the terminals, be careful when handling the battery. Do not touch the dirty area and place it in a bag for recycling or disposal.

Use Rechargeables!

According to the RBRC, rechargeable batteries can be used up to 1,000 times before they are recycled and the metals are recovered. They have a greater initial cost, but are much less expensive in the long run.

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852 B East Lake Street
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Carpet Recycling

CARE, the Carpet America Recovery Effort's objective is to divert 40% of all post consumer carpet from landfills by 2012. They expect 7 billion pounds to be generated in 2012, which would mean 2.8 billion pounds would need to be reused or recycled to meet their goal. Go to: www.carpetrecovery.org for more information.

Where to Recycle Unwanted Carpet:

- **Bro-Tex, Inc.** (Located in St. Paul): Bro-Tex is the only recycler of carpet in Minnesota. They inspect and test all carpet to determine what it can be made into. For a list of their drop-off locations and specifications for recycling carpet go to: <http://www.brotex.com/carpetrecycling.aspx>

How Carpet Recycling Works:

- Currently commercial carpet is more often recycled than residential carpet. Commercial carpet comes in larger sizes, higher volumes, and is usually the same resin type.
- Residential carpet comes in smaller sizes and a large variety of resin types. Some of these include: wool, polyolefin, and nylon.
- Carpet is inspected to make sure it is not wet or moldy before it is tested. Testing determines what type of resin the carpet is made of and that determines what the carpet can be made into.
- Several items carpet can be recycled into include: plastic resin for plastic parts or plastic lumber, plastic drainage pipe, acoustic matting, sorbent material for water pollutants, new carpet pad, new carpet, or it can even be used as an energy substitute for existing energy raw materials like coal and natural gas.

How Carpet Recycling Helps Minnesota's Environment:

- In 2005, Minnesotans discarded approximately 180,000 tons of carpet.
- Recycling 1,000 square yards of carpeting saves: 440 gallons of oil, 10 million Btu's of energy, and diverts 4,500 pounds of material from going to the landfill.
- Using recycled carpet plastic resins as raw materials for new products, reduces the need for other raw materials to be mined and processed. Using recycled materials also creates new markets and new jobs.

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E-Waste Recycling

What is e-waste?

According to the US EPA, e-waste is the fastest growing waste stream. Examples of electronic waste (e-waste) include: old televisions, cell phones, computers, keyboards, printers, fax machines, audio equipment, video cameras, VCRs, or anything which has a circuit board or cathode ray tube (CRT).

Why is it important to recycle electronic waste?

Many electronics are made with toxic materials including lead, mercury, and cadmium among others. Minnesota State Statute 115A.9565 of 2006 states, electronics containing a cathode ray tube (such as computer monitors and televisions) must be properly recycled. A great place to bring them is your county hazardous waste drop-off site.

Recycle e-waste to avoid accidental toxic leaks into our air and water systems this protects our community's environment and health.



Where can I recycle my e-waste?

Reuse:

- **Donate:** Donate your unwanted working electronics to schools, nonprofits, or other community organizations.
- **Goodwill:** Goodwill will accept electronics that are working and in good condition. www.goodwill.com
- **Twin Cities Free Market:** list your unwanted electronics on the Twin Cities Free Market. Everything listed on this site is free for reuse purposes to others in the Twin Cities metro region. www.twincitiesfreemarket.org
- **Craigslist:** List your unwanted electronics for free or for a fee on craigslist. <http://minneapolis.craigslist.org/>

Recycle:

- **Rethink Recycling:** Rethink Recycling is your go to disposal guide for those living in the Twin Cities metro region. www.rethinkrecycling.com.
- **Recycle MORE Minnesota:** an informational website for the public and media. Click on the 'How do I recycle' link for the solid waste administrator contact information in your area. www.recyclemoreminnesota.org.
- **Manufacturer of your Electronics:** some manufacturers have take-back programs for their goods.

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Fluorescent Bulb Recycling

Using energy-efficient fluorescent light bulbs makes sense: you save money on electrical bills, and they are better for the environment. Because these bulbs contain mercury, all fluorescent bulbs from households must be recycled to avoid polluting the environment and posing a health threat. It is illegal to throw these bulbs out.

What bulbs can I recycle?

- Compact fluorescent bulbs (all sizes)
- Fluorescent Bulbs of all shapes and sizes (tubes, circles, U-shaped, bug “zappers”, tanning lights, and black lights)
- High intensity discharge (HID) lamps, typically used for exterior lighting (metal halide, mercury vapor, and high pressure sodium)
- Neon lights

Where can I recycle my fluorescent bulbs?

- **Hardware stores and retailers:** Many retailers that sell fluorescent bulbs also collect them to recycle. Contact your local retailer to find out whether they accept fluorescent bulbs to recycle (there is sometimes a fee of \$1 or \$2). Also check your electric utility’s website. Many power companies have arrangements with retailers to accept used residential bulbs. Some utilities offer coupons to customers to cover the recycling fees.
- **County household hazardous waste programs:** Many county household hazardous waste (HHW) programs accept used fluorescent bulbs for recycling.
- For a list of retailers that accept fluorescent and HID bulbs, go to www.earth911.org or call 800-253-2387. In the Twin Cities metro area go to rethinkrecycling.com and outside the metro go to recyclemoreminnesota.org to contact your local recycling coordinator.

Fluorescent bulbs save money and protect our environment:

- Fluorescent bulbs use only one-fourth of the energy of incandescent bulbs and last as much as 10 times longer. Replacing a 100-watt incandescent bulb with the equivalent fluorescent bulb will save you as much as \$50 over the life of the bulb.
- In 2009, Minnesotans recycled 680 tons of residential fluorescent and HID lamps.

Handle with Care:

Be careful when handling and transporting fluorescent bulbs to avoid breakage and exposure to mercury.

- **Storing:** To avoid breaking bulbs, store them in their original packaging somewhere inaccessible to children.
- **Transporting:** When transporting fluorescent bulbs to the recycling facilities, repack them in their original packaging or wrap them in newspaper or bubble wrap and place in a box or bag to prevent breakage. Carry these items in the trunk of your car, if possible. Make sure there are no heavy items in the trunk that can shift and break the bulbs. As an added precaution, put each bulb in a sealed plastic bag.
- It is safe to throw out regular incandescent light bulbs and halogen bulbs since they do not contain mercury.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Fluorescent bulbs have mercury in them; why should I use them?**
Fluorescent bulbs are safe to use. No mercury is released when they are in use. Simply be careful when removing or replacing a fluorescent bulb. By saving energy, fluorescent bulbs prevent more mercury being released into the air by power plants. A typical power plant emits 10mg of mercury to produce the electricity needed to run an incandescent light bulb, compares to only 2.4 mg of mercury needed to run a compact fluorescent bulb.
- **What should I do if I break a fluorescent bulb?**
Because of the mercury in fluorescent bulbs, breaking a fluorescent bulb is not like breaking an incandescent bulb. If you break a fluorescent bulb, keep all people and pets out of the room. Open the windows and ventilate the room for fifteen minutes before cleaning up. Put on rubber gloves and carefully pick up any broken pieces, glass shards, or powder with sticky tape. After all visible pieces have been picked up vacuum the area. Place all the pieces and used clean up material, including the vacuum bag, in a plastic bag and seal it. Call your local HHW facility for disposal instructions. Be sure to wash your hands after clean up. If you break two or more fluorescent bulbs, or if you are unsure what to do, call the Minnesota Duty Officer any time.
- **How is mercury harmful?**
Mercury can damage human health because it is toxic to the nervous system - the brain and spinal cord - particularly the developing nervous system of a fetus or young child.



Glass Container Recycling



We all know that recycling glass is important. Glass is infinitely recyclable with no loss to its strength, purity, or quality, and unless broken, glass takes up a lot of landfill space. New companies have moved into Minnesota to recover the glass cullet for recycling.

Where Glass Goes for Recycling:

- **Anchor Glass** (Located in Shakopee, MN): Anchor Glass recycles various colors of glass that is made into new glass bottles and food containers. www.anchorglass.com
- **Blue Skies Glassworks** (Located in Duluth): Each year, Blue Skies Glassworks uses 1,000 pounds of plate glass (not recyclable curbside) to make sculptures and other works of art. www.blueskiesglassworks.com
- **eCullet** (Located in St. Paul): With over 60 years of glass processing experience, eCullet opened a plant in St. Paul in 2008. Using a four-way color sorting machine they collect glass from drop off centers and MRFs, process the glass, and sell the cullet back to manufacturers to make new jars and bottles. www.ecullet.com
- **Strategic Materials** (Located in St. Paul): Strategic Materials set up a new plant in St. Paul in 2011. With over 40 locations in North America, Strategic Materials sells over 2 million tons of glass cullet each year. www.strategicmaterials.com

How Glass Recycling Helps Minnesota's Economy:

- By substituting recycled glass for only half of the raw materials, the production waste is cut by more than 80%. Mining and transporting raw materials for glass produces about 385 pounds of waste for every ton of glass that's made.
- Glass not suitable to be manufactured back into glass containers feed other industries who use recycled glass to make things like: flooring, countertops, tiles, abrasives, roadwork additives, and other items.

How Glass Recycling Helps Minnesota's Environment:

- In 2009 Minnesotans recycled over 128,000 tons of glass.
- The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle can run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours. It also causes 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than when a new bottle is made from raw materials.

Recycling Association of Minnesota
852 B East Lake Street
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391
Office: 651-641-4589 Website: recycleminnesota.org



Plastic Container Recycling



There are several locations throughout Minnesota where plastic bottles and jugs are recycled into new pop bottles, milk containers, landscaping materials, polar fleece, carpet, and plastic lumber.

Where Plastic Goes for Recycling:

- **Bedford Technology**, (Located in Worthington): Bedford Technology uses 10 million pounds of recycled # 2 plastics annually to make 30 different plastic lumber products. www.bedfordtech.com
- **Ladtech, Inc.** (Located in Lino Lakes) Since 1994, Ladtech uses 2 million pounds of recycled #2 plastic pellets annually to make sewer adjustment rings used in manholes that still have shown no signs of breaking. 52 milk jugs, shampoo and detergent bottles are required to manufacture one 2" adjustment ring. www.ladtech.com
- **Master Mark** (Locations in Albany and Paynesville): Each year, Master Mark uses over 1 billion recycled plastic containers and sawdust to make lawn, garden, and building supplies. www.mastermark.com

How Plastic Recycling Helps Minnesota's Economy:

- In 2009, Minnesotans recycled over 57,000 tons of plastic; manufacturers around the state need our recyclable plastics so they can meet their demand for recycled products.
- Plastic recycling keeps bottles out of our environment, preserves biodiversity of our habitats, and reduces the need for taxpayer money to fund cleanup efforts.

How Plastic Recycling Helps Minnesota's Environment:

- Americans buy an estimated 34.6 billion single-serving (1 liter or less) plastic water bottles each year. Almost eight out of ten end up in a landfill or incinerator.
- Hundreds of millions of plastic bottles end up as litter on roads, beaches, and in streams and waterways. Keep our state clean; recycle every plastic bottle!

Did You Know:

- Five PET bottles (# 1 plastic soda bottles) yield enough fiber to make one extra large T-shirt, one square foot of carpet or enough fiber to fill one ski jacket.

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Top Ten Bottles and Cans Recycling Facts

1. Every three months, Americans landfill enough aluminum to rebuild the entire United States commercial air fleet.
2. The average person has the opportunity to recycle more than 25,000 cans in a lifetime. At six ounces of gasoline energy savings per recycled aluminum can, that represents a potential to save the energy contained in nearly 1,200 gallons of gasoline!
3. Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a TV or computer for three hours.
4. Recycling one glass jar saves enough electricity to light a conventional 60-watt bulb for four hours or an 11-watt compact fluorescent bulb for 20 hours.
5. It takes 95 percent less energy to recycle aluminum than it does to make it from raw materials. Making recycled steel results in a 60 percent energy savings, making recycled plastic results in a 70 percent energy savings, and making recycled glass results in a 40 percent energy savings.
6. Making glass from recycled material cuts related water pollution by 50 percent.
7. The plastic recycling industry provides jobs for more than 52,000 Americans.
8. Five plastic soda bottles yield enough fiber for one extra large T-shirt, one square foot of carpet, or enough fiber fill for one ski jacket.¹
9. In 2006, plastic, metal, and glass recycling in the Twin Cities reduced air pollution by more than 335,000 tons and water pollution by more than 1,250 tons.
10. In 2006, Twin Cities residents recycled over 270,000 tons of plastic, metal, and glass, which resulted in a greenhouse gas emissions reduction equal to that of removing over 125,000 cars from our roads².

Rethink Recycling. It matters more than you think. To learn more, contact your community recycling program or visit www.RethinkRecycling.com, the metro area's resource for recycling and waste disposal.

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This Fact Sheet was provided by the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board as a part of the Rethink Recycling campaign. Please help us track the use of this campaign. Please send an e-mail to Info@RethinkRecycling.com with a description of how the fact sheet was used, the date it will be published, and the estimated circulation of the publication. If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact Angie Timmons, 612-348-2477.

¹ Facts 1 – 8: NRC – the Conversionator

² Facts 9 -10: NRC Calculator

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