

Earth Day: April 22, 2016

For 46 years, Earth Day has brought people together worldwide to address issues such as climate change, waste accumulation, littering, air pollution, and fossil fuel dependence. With our forests depleting and landfills reaching maximum capacity, it's important to do your part! Consider adopting the following lifestyle changes to help preserve Earth's beauty and resources:

- Reduce your waste
- Reuse and recycle old or broken items
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth
- Bike, walk, or carpool to work



Teachers and parents should get their children involved with Earth Day too! Children will soon grow up to be the next generation responsible for protecting the earth. There are hundreds of crafts, puzzles, word finds, and activities to do with kids to celebrate Earth Day, and we have some great ideas on our Pinterest page! www.pinterest.com/carltonco

For information on proper recycling practices in Carlton County, visit Recycling.CarltonCounty.com to view our Recycling Brochure and Transfer Station Price Guide.

Hosting an Event?

Events can draw hundreds of people; often times, a venue lacks the proper infrastructure for the disposal of trash and recyclable materials. Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services has a program to improve event recycling! Through the Carlton County Event Recycling Program, anyone may rent receptacles **free of charge** for trash, food waste, plastics, paper, and aluminum cans. If you would like to rent these receptacles, please contact Karola Dalen at karola.dalen@co.carlton.mn.us or (218) 384-9178 to fill out an application.



Green Schools Project Update

The Green Schools Project is having a very successful first year! Here are a few of the schools' recycling advancements:

MOOSE LAKE K-12 SCHOOL

Moose Lake was the first school to enroll in the Green Schools Project. Being the first school, they helped shape the new grant program. Prior to the Green Schools Project, they had recycling bins for all types of beverage containers which did not distinguish between aluminum cans, plastic bottles, or glass. Their garbage hauler requires recyclable materials be separated, therefore this type of collection leads to contamination. Contamination is when different recyclable materials get too mixed or too much garbage gets mixed in with the recyclables that the material cannot be sold to make new products.

Through Green Schools Project, Moose Lake ordered new recycling bins for hallways and classrooms which will be clearly labeled to help prevent contamination. A remarkable accomplishment in waste reduction was Moose Lake's choice to require double-sided printing. During the 2014-2015 school year, they used approximately 1.7 million sheets of paper. That's over \$100,000! Since then, they have reduced their paper use considerably, saving lots of money and paper!

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY

Washington ordered recycling bins for their classrooms, and bought new 50-gallon carts for a new substation in their hallway. Emily Kolodge attended an all staff meeting at the school (pictured below) after the new bins arrived to demonstrate what can and cannot go in each bin. Washington collects "glossy" paper for fundraising, which is confusing since acceptable materials have changed over the years.



Emily Kolodge with teachers Jason Godnai and Heather Johnson

QUEEN OF PEACE ELEMENTARY

Queen of Peace used their grant money to order some new colorful totes (pictured right) for every classroom. They have been using containers which were too small (pictured below) for their recyclables, so the new totes will be a great improvement!



Don't Flush "Flushable" Wipes!

Disposable wipes labeled as "flushable," "septic safe," or "sewer safe" are misleading and wreck havoc at local wastewater treatment plants. Disposable wipes don't break down once they go down the toilet; instead, they clog pipes, get caught in pumps, and gunk up wastewater treatment systems. Problems such as these end up costing a fortune to eradicate and take valuable time out of workers' days.

Why don't these "flushable" wipes break down? While flushable materials such as toilet paper are made from paper fibers that easily break down in water, disposable wipes are made with 30-45% plastic which does not break down in water.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has proposed a ban on this misleading labeling, which would also include a requirement to feature a "do not flush" message. If passed, this ban will not prevent the sale of disposable wipes, just the way they are labeled. In the meantime, throw those wipes in the trash!



Watercraft Inspectors Patrol Carlton County Lakes

Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services has hired 7 Level I Watercraft Inspectors to inspect boats for aquatic invasive species (AIS). You can expect to see the inspectors on Carlton County boat landings from fishing opener to Labor Day.

Aquatic invasive species are any species of plants or animals that are not native to the area. They often thrive in their new environment, outcompeting native species for food and habitat space.

Eurasian Watermilfoil has infested Bear Lake and Chub Lake. It is the only known invasive species in Carlton County. Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services will be treating these lakes to stop the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil.



To prevent the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil and other invasive species, please follow these rules:

1. **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreline.
2. **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, live well and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
3. **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your live bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

Carlton County Household Hazardous Waste Facility Opens May 3rd!



Starting May 3rd, the Carlton County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Transfer Station on Hwy 210 will be open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m until October 8th.

Follow Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services on Pinterest!



Looking for tips, tricks, and tutorials on how to compost, reduce, reuse, and recycle? Follow us on Pinterest!

www.pinterest.com/carltonco

What is Pinterest? Pinterest is a visual discovery tool that you can use to find ideas for projects, hobbies, and interests. Each photo is linked to a webpage that, when clicked, opens the page to a video, tutorial, or informational blog.

Carlton County Recycle Center Hours

Year-Round Hours for all Staffed Recycling Centers

Wednesdays	2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.
Thursdays	2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.
Fridays	2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.
Saturdays	9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

STAFFED SHEDS (BARNUM, CARLTON, ESKO, MOOSE LAKE, PERCH LAKE)

Glass Jars and Bottles, Plastics #1 thru #7, Tin Cans, Aluminum Cans, Newspapers, Magazines, Box Board, Cardboard, and Office Paper.

UNSTAFFED SHEDS (BLACKHOOF, CROMWELL, HOLYOKE, KETTLE RIVER, MAHTOWA, WRIGHT)

Glass Jars and Bottles, Plastics #1 thru #7, Tin Cans, Aluminum Cans and Newspapers.

TRANSFER STATION

Glass Jars and Bottles, Plastics #1 thru #7, Tin Cans, Aluminum Cans, Newspapers, Magazines, Office Paper, Box Board, Cardboard, Car Batteries, Medical Sharps, Used Motor Oil and Filters, Antifreeze, and Food Waste.

Carlton County Transfer Station April 1st—October 31st

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Recyclables MUST be cleaned, removed from bags, and sorted into the proper bin!

