

Carlton County Jail Update

Last June, Zoning & Environmental Services equipped the Carlton County Jail kitchen with a 10 gallon organics collection bin for their food scraps. Nicole Chalberg, Food Service Director, estimates that kitchen staff recycle 3-5 gallons of food scraps daily. Over the course of 6 months, they have diverted over **3 tons** (6,428 pounds) of material from the landfill. Food scraps are sent to the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District composting facility to be transformed into valuable fertilizer for farmers and gardeners in the area. Keep up the great work!



Nicole Chalberg using her organics bin.

Green Schools Project Update

We received an overwhelming response from local schools after our launch of the Green Schools Project back in September! Schools can receive a \$2,000 grant through the Green Schools Project to improve recycling and reduce waste.

Emily Kolodge, Minnesota GreenCorps member at Carlton County Zoning and Environmental Services, has visited several Carlton County schools to help them through the application process and preliminary work. She is currently working with these schools:

- Moose Lake K-12
- Wrenshall K-12
- Washington Elementary (Cloquet)
- Queen of Peace Elementary (Cloquet)
- Cloquet High School
- Cromwell-Wright K-12
- South Terrace Elementary (Carlton)
- Carlton High School
- Cloquet Middle School

If you would like to be involved with the Green Schools Project or your school's Green Team, please email Emily Kolodge at emily.kolodge@co.carlton.mn.us.

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REUSE: Trash to Treasure



Every day, we send materials to the landfill that still have a lot of life left in them. Use these tips and tricks to get the most bang for your buck!

1. Use paint

A nice paint job can make something old look new, or completely transform an object. You can create a beautiful vase from a wine bottle or glass jar with a coat of spray paint (pictured). Chalkboard paint is a great way to create customized labels on any container. You can freshen up an old frame with some spray paint or create a decorative chalk board by painting the glass.



2. Save lids

There are hundreds of uses for plastic lids from Pringles cans, sour cream containers, yogurt cups, etc. If you have children, let them color clear lids and hang them as sun catchers (pictured above). When you make homemade burgers, place lids in between patties before freezing them for easy separation later. Crafters can sort art supplies such as buttons or beads, or keep yarn from getting tangled by feeding it through a cut "X" in a lid.



3. Cut it up

Cereal boxes are a study material that can be used for a variety of things such as postcards, homemade frames, and book covers. Shampoo bottles can make a creative pencil holder for kids with some strategic cuts and googly eyes (pictured). With an additional hole cut in the back, it can become a charging station for your phone. Milk jugs can be turned into a sandwich holder with some easy snips and a button with thread.

All of the tutorials for the crafts mentioned above (and more!) can be found on our new Pinterest page (see page 4 for URL).

What's the Deal with Plastics?

Recycling plastics can be tricky—the plastics that are accepted are always changing and differ between garbage haulers. Some plastic containers have a recycling number but can't be recycled, while some don't have a number but can be recycled. The constant mixed messages sent out to consumers is confusing and frustrating. So what's the deal? What can *really* be recycled?

One of the items most commonly placed in curbside recycling that doesn't belong is plastic film (grocery bags, bread bags, etc.). While plastic film is recyclable, it shouldn't be placed with the rest of your recycling. Plastic bags need to be taken to a place with a special bin for plastic film only. Super One, Walmart, Cub Foods, and Whole Foods Co-op are places that should have one, usually located near the exit.



“But if my container has a number on it, doesn't that mean it's recyclable?” Not necessarily. While the numbers correlate with some recyclable materials, they were not created for that purpose. The number on the bottom of your container is simply a resin identification code that is used by engineers to indicate the type of plastic an item is made from.

Sometimes plastics can't be recycled simply because it's not economically viable, not because they physically can't be recycled. Plastics #1 and #2 are the highest quality and have the best market prices. Plastics #3-#7 are lower quality and are hard to recycle, therefore they have a low market price. Brittle containers like doughnut containers, flimsy store-bought cookie trays, or to-go coffee lids are not recyclable, even though they have an assigned number. Other common materials with resin numbers that cannot be recycled include Styrofoam, 5-gallon buckets, plastic storage bins, and plastic toys.

Ensuring your recyclable plastic containers actually get recycled means you also have to rinse them out before tossing them in the recycling bin. Food residue in containers creates contamination that devalues the plastic to a point where it cannot be recycled. You don't need to scrub the container, just give it a quick rinse to remove as much food as you can.

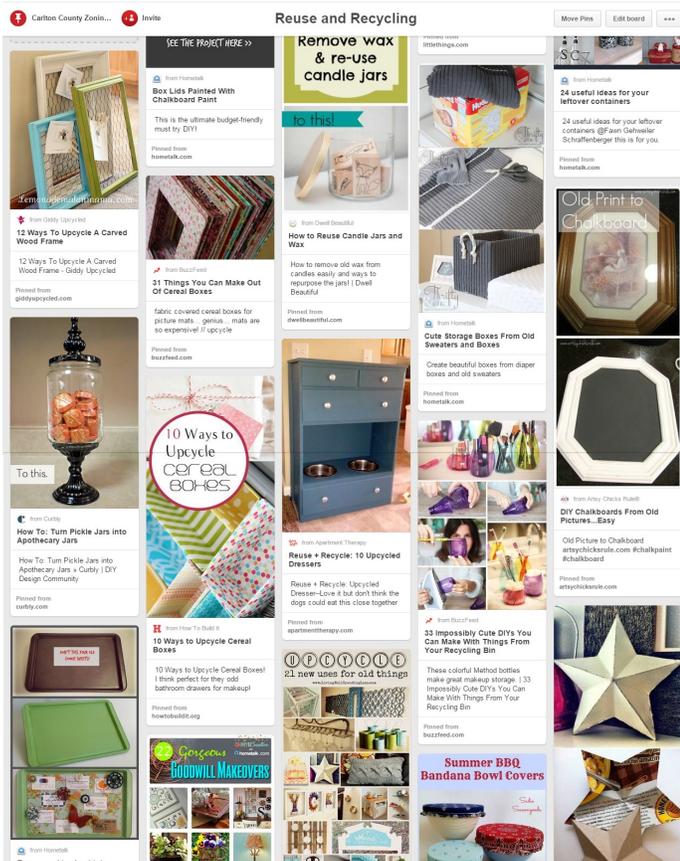
It's hard to keep up with what is recyclable and what isn't. If you think something might be trash, call your garbage hauler. Still have questions? Ask Recycling Coordinator Karola Dalen by phone or email at (218) 384-9178 or karola.dalen@co.carlton.mn.us.

Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services is 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.

You can join for free by simply logging in with your Facebook or signing up with an email address. Search for pins and create bulletin boards on any topic, whether it's composting, crafting, or cooking!

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, Food Waste, and Scrap Metal.

Carlton County Transfer Station
November 1 - March 31

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

