

# Happy Holidays!

Volume 9, Issue 5

**CARLTON COUNTY RESOURCE AND RECYCLING  
NEWSLETTER**

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With the holidays quickly approaching, you might want to start thinking about how much food waste you're producing in your kitchen. Follow these steps to maximize the shelf life of your produce, save money, and reduce that holiday food waste.

How do I save money and reduce food waste in my kitchen?

### 1 Plan ahead.

Planning out your meals helps deter those last minute purchases at the grocery store and prevents you from buying extra food when you know you'll be busy and won't have time to cook an elaborate meal.

### 3 Organize.

Taking the time to organize your kitchen is a must. Every few weeks, look to see what has crept to the back of your freezer and prioritize it. Well organized storage containers also ensure your food will make it to the fridge safely.

### 2 Freeze your food.

Freezing a portion of your food or leftovers (especially if you buy in bulk) is a great way to preserve your food. If you have a busy day, pre-make food a few days before and throw it in the freezer.

### 4 Share leftovers.

If you're planning a trip or know something in your pantry will go bad, consider sharing with your friends or donate to a local food shelf. Visit [www.foodpantries.org](http://www.foodpantries.org) to see a list of food shelves near you and acceptable food to bring.

What can I do with my food scraps?



No matter how waste-savvy you are, there will always be a little bit of food waste. The best thing to do is compost it!

**Why?** In landfills, decomposing food goes through an anaerobic process (meaning without oxygen) which produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. At home or at proper facilities, decomposing food goes through an aerobic process (with oxygen) which produces carbon dioxide, a less potent and less harmful greenhouse gas.

Composting is as simple as bringing your food waste in a compostable bag to the Carlton County Transfer Station (see page 4). This is a **FREE** service provided to all residents; the transfer station also provides 4 free compostable bags for each visit.

Composting at home is a great way to turn your food scraps into free fertilizer! Start collecting your food waste in a small container in your kitchen.

What if I want to compost at home?

Stationary or rotating compost bins can be purchased and placed outside your home to empty your kitchen container into. You can also build your own bin as long as it meets ideal composting conditions. Decomposing food requires oxygen, heat, and moisture to keep the bacteria happy. Materials must also be turned periodically.

Good compost piles have a balance between “brown” and “green” materials. Newspaper, leaves, and wood chips are all good “brown” items to add to your pile. “Green” items include kitchen scraps and grass clippings.

Avoid putting meat, fish, bones, and dairy in your compost pile as these materials attract pests and don’t break down very well in northern Minnesota temperatures.

Still confused about home composting? Visit this great website: [www.planetnatural.com/composting-101](http://www.planetnatural.com/composting-101)

Getting sick of eating Thanksgiving leftovers for a week straight? Try revamping your leftovers with this great Thanksgiving Casserole recipe:

### Ingredients

3 cups leftover stuffing      1 can cranberry sauce  
4 cups leftover turkey      1 cup gravy  
2 ½ cups mashed potatoes

### Instructions

Heat oven to 350°. Spray a 9x9 baking dish with non-stick spray. Layer ingredients in this order: stuffing, cranberry sauce, turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes. Bake 50-60 minutes or until top is golden brown.

*What do I do with my old holiday lights??*



**Bring them to the Transfer Station!**  
The Holiday Lights Recycling Program at the Carlton County Transfer Station provides FREE recycling for old or burnt-out lights until **January 31, 2016.**

Carlton County Transfer Station  
1950 Highway 210  
Carlton, MN

**Hours (November 1st—March 31st)**  
Monday—Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:00p.m.  
Saturday 8:30 a.m.-1:00p.m.

### **We Accept:**

Electric cords  
Holiday lights  
Telephone cords  
Appliance cords

### **We DO NOT Accept:**

Cord adapters  
Battery packs

Help! I'm up to my ears in wrapping paper!

Once the holidays are over, you're always left with the mess: boxes, wrapping paper, packing peanuts, tissue paper, and Christmas cards piling up in your home. What do you do with them?

Reuse and Recycle! Cardboard boxes and can be reused or recycled for FREE at the Transfer Station. You can also reuse your old Christmas cards for scrapbooking or recycle them with the rest of your paper recycling.

Unfortunately, wrapping paper, packing peanuts, and tissue paper can't be recycled, but you can still reuse them. Keep packing peanuts for your own mailing use and repurpose wrapping and tissue paper for re-gifting or scrapbooking.



Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services  
301 Walnut Ave  
(218) 384-9178  
[www.co.carlton.mn.us](http://www.co.carlton.mn.us)

## 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, Box Board, Cardboard, Office Paper, 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.

