

Recycler's Digest

CARLTON COUNTY'S GREEN TEAM NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, issue 1

What can I expect from this newsletter?

The Recycler's Digest is an idea I came up with when I started developing the Green Schools Project. One of the first questions we get when working with schools is, "what are other schools doing?" Through this newsletter, we will send updates of other schools as well as give you basic information about recycling.

Many times when I visit a school, staff and students have very little information about what goes on behind the scenes once they toss an item in the trash. Understanding the "who, what, where, how, and why" behind recycling is extremely important! Recycling is a billion dollar industry in Minnesota, and your garbage bill is one of your school's larger expenses.

We promise not to spam your email; you can expect one newsletter about 4 times per year. We will send this newsletter to all Carlton County Green Team members so we can educate everyone on the process of recycling and keep everyone updated on what other schools are doing. As always, we would love your feedback! Please email Emily Kolodge (see last page) with your ideas, projects, comments, concerns, hopes, or dreams regarding recycling and the Green Schools Project! •

Who is my hauler, and what can I recycle through them?

Knowing who is your garbage hauler is important; it changes what you can recycle, how often your garbage and recycling can get picked up, and how much you pay for your services.

School	Hauler	Recyclable Materials	Phone Number
Washington Elementary Queen of Peace Cloquet Middle School Cloquet High School Wrenshall K-12 South Terrace Elementary Carlton High School	Cloquet Sanitary Services	Paper, Cardboard, Plastics #1—#7, Glass, Metals, and Organics (food waste)	218-879-3723
Moose Lake K-12	Nordstrom's Sanitation Services	Paper, Cardboard, Plastics #1—#2, Glass, and Metals	218-485-4637
Cromwell-Wright K-12	Lakes Sanitary Services	Paper, Cardboard, Plastics #1—#7, Glass, and Metals	218-768-3360

If your hauler is Cloquet Sanitary Services or Waste Management and you would like to start organics recycling, send them a request for proposal (RFP) to receive a quote. •

School Spotlights

The Green Schools Project had a very successful first year! As schools continue to make progress, we will showcase their recycling advancements. We will choose 3 schools per newsletter issue.

MOOSE LAKE K-12 SCHOOL

Moose Lake was our guinea pig in developing the Green Schools Project, since they came to us for help before the grant was created. Prior to the Green Schools Project, they did not have plastic recycling bins in any areas of the school, and in the 2014-2015 school year, they used approximately 1.7 million sheets of paper. That's over \$100,000 worth of paper!

They have come a long way since then. Moose Lake has new bins for classrooms and hallways, including plastics recycling bins, and have cut down their paper usage considerably.

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 came to demonstrate what can and cannot go in each bin. Washington collects "glossy" paper for fundraising, which is confusing since acceptable materials are always changing!



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 extremely small containers (pictured below) for their recyclables, so the new totes will be a great improvement!



What do you want to know?

Is there something that you find confusing about recycling? Are you curious about what goes on behind-the-scenes with garbage haulers? Would you like tips, tricks, or ideas on how to educate your students to recycle properly? Let us know! Email your questions to Emily Kolodge at emily.kolodge@co.carlton.mn.us. •

About Emily

When working with schools, I get a lot of questions about who I am as a person and as a Minnesota GreenCorps member. “What are you? An intern? A student? A volunteer?” My favorite question so far has been, “Are you related to <insert name here> Kolodge?” (The answer is yes, by the way. I am related to almost every “Kolodge” in the area.)

I was born and raised in Pike Lake, Minnesota (about 25 minutes northwest of Duluth). I have two brothers, with 4 nieces and 1 nephew between them. In my spare time, I thoroughly enjoy being “Aunty Em” as well as partaking in a wide variety of hobbies including hunting, fishing, binge-watching Netflix shows, reading, knitting, playing videogames, and photography, to name a few.

I attended Proctor High School, and then the University of Minnesota—Duluth (UMD). I graduated from UMD in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science. During this time, I worked at Minnesota Sea Grant on the UMD campus as a front office student worker and communications/science writing intern. Most of my special projects revolved around aquatic invasive species (AIS), which ignited my interest in the environmental field.

Not quite ready to face the world of “real” adults after graduation, I decided to apply to be a Minnesota GreenCorps member. Minnesota GreenCorps is a statewide program that aims to preserve Minnesota’s environment. This year, 40 host sites were picked from hundreds of applicants to host a Minnesota GreenCorps member; each member serves for 11 months to gain experience in their field and to work on projects related to air quality, water quality, energy conservation, local foods, green living, green transportation, invasive species, and waste reduction and recycling. At the end of the 11 months, each member gets an educational award to put towards past, present, or future student loans.

I was placed at the Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services host site to launch the Green Schools Project. I work full time assisting Carlton County schools, giving them money for proper recycling infrastructure and educating staff and students on how to recycle properly. I serve as a resource for schools to perform, present, and educate on all things recycling, so if you have an idea for a project in your school but don’t have time to tackle it, let me know! We are currently in the process of applying for another Minnesota GreenCorps member for next year to keep the project alive! •

