

# CARLTON COUNTY

## RESOURCE AND RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

Volume 12, Issue 2

Holiday 2017

### Low-waste, low stress holiday gatherings

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the volume of household waste in the United States increases by about 1 million extra tons between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

Adding waste reduction to an already-long holiday list may seem stressful, but by following a few helpful tips, a successful low-waste holiday gathering is possible.

#### *Plan ahead*

- **Prevent wasted food:** Plan recipes ahead of time, including the meal, dessert, and snacks. Know how many people will be attending to gauge the amount of food needed.
- **Serve small portions:** Serve yourself, and especially children, small portions to reduce leftover food on the plate. You can always get seconds! As a host, providing smaller plates is effective in reducing food waste by your guests.
- **Prioritize leftover food:** Ensure it doesn't go to waste by offering any extras to guests to take home, or store them at your house for consumption after the event.
- **Invite guests electronically:** Prevent paper waste by sending e-vites.

#### *Avoid plastic utensils*

- **Use reusable silverware:** If you don't have enough on hand, ask to borrow from friends or family, or purchase a set from a secondhand store. Plastic utensils are NEVER recyclable.



*Be mindful of items used to set the holiday table. Utilize reusable dinnerware, linens, and decorations.*

#### *Manage the waste*

- **Set up a disposal station:** Include a bin for recyclables, organics, and trash. Clearly label bins to reduce confusion and contamination.
- **Co-locate bins:** Always pair a trash can with a recycling bin. Locate the station in a high traffic and easy-to-access location.
- **Collect food waste:** See "Composting your holiday food waste" on page 2.



## Composting your holiday food waste

Another way to dramatically reduce waste is to recycle the leftover food from holiday dinners, as well as food scraps from preparation. Provide an organics (food waste) collection bin at your waste disposal station and inform guests where to put what items.

### What can be recycled:

- Meat and fish scraps, fat, and bones
- Spoiled or moldy food
- Eggshells
- Fruit and vegetables, peels and pits
- Tea bags, coffee grounds and filters
- Cheese and butter
- Baked goods, dough, pasta, and rice
- Anything that is/was edible

### What NOT to include:

- Liquids
- Large amounts of grease
- Plastic bags, containers, or wrap



**What:** Carlton County's public food waste drop site  
**Where:** Carlton County Transfer Station, 1950 Highway 210  
**How:** Get info and free compostable bags from cashier  
**When:** Regular Transfer Station hours (see page 4)

## Holiday lights recycling

The Holiday Lights Recycling Program at the Carlton County Transfer Station provides FREE recycling for old, unwanted, or burnt-out lights until **January 31, 2018**.

Please place only the string lights in the marked collection bin.

REMOVE from string lights:

- Plastic bags
- Plastic spools
- Garland





Let your crafty side have fun creating wrapped gift masterpieces using newspapers, brown paper, and maps. Add greenery, twine, and reusable tags to complete the look. (Photos courtesy of Pinterest.)

## Get creative, reduce waste with alternative gift wrap

Once the commotion of opening presents subsides, wrapping paper is often collected and stuffed into a giant trash bag. From there, it's headed straight for a landfill since wrapping paper that is generally used for holiday gifts cannot be recycled.

To avoid such a scene, consider implementing wrapping paper alternatives into your gifting routine.

Try using brown paper. The material is recyclable and can be placed with cardboard and boxboard. Let the paper be a blank canvas, and have the kids get crafty making the gift wrap one-of-a-kind.

Another alternative includes using newspaper, old maps, or brown paper bags to wrap. Eco-friendly wrapping paper is also an option, and it consists of post-consumer recycled paper.

### *Follow us on social media*

Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services is on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CarltonCountyZoning/](http://www.facebook.com/CarltonCountyZoning/).



We also have a Pinterest page! This can be found at [www.pinterest.com/carltonco/](http://www.pinterest.com/carltonco/).



Get waste reduction updates on Facebook, as well as tips, tricks, and projects on Pinterest. Find us on the web at [recycling.carltoncounty.com](http://recycling.carltoncounty.com).

# Carlton County Recycling Center Hours

## STAFFED Recycling Centers

*Barnum, Carlton, Esko,  
Moose Lake, Perch Lake*

### **Hours, year-round**

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.

### **Accepted Materials at Staffed Centers:**

Glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs, tin cans, aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, boxboard, cardboard, and office paper

## UNSTAFFED Recycling Centers

*Blackhoof, Cromwell,  
Holyoke, Kettle River,  
Mahtowa, Wright*

### **Open 24/7, year-round**

### **Accepted Materials at Unstaffed Centers:**

Glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs, tin cans, aluminum cans, and newspapers

## Transfer Station 1950 Hwy 210, Carlton

### **Hours Nov. 1 - March 31**

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### **Accepted Materials at Transfer Station:**

Glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs, tin cans, aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, office paper, boxboard, cardboard, car batteries, medical sharps, used motor oil and filters, antifreeze, and food waste

All recyclables MUST be clean, removed from bags, and sorted into the proper bin.  
Thank you for your help in preventing contamination!

## *Recycle your Christmas tree*

Please remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel, and toppers from your live tree. Take the tree out of the tree stand, and bring it to a Treecycling location:

### **Dec. 26 - Jan.15**

- SAPPI Fine Paper, Cloquet, MN
- Moose Lake Compost Site, Moose Lake, MN

### **Visit [www.wlssd.com](http://www.wlssd.com) for dates and other locations**

- WLSSD Materials Recovery Center, Duluth, MN
- WLSSD Yard Waste Compost Site, Duluth, MN



## Visit our Website

Go to [recycling.carltoncounty.com](http://recycling.carltoncounty.com)

to find the transfer station price guide, an interactive map of the recycling centers in the county, more information on the Green Schools Project, and other useful resources.



**Have a specific question?  
Call 218-384-9178.**