

CARLTON COUNTY

RESOURCE AND RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

Volume 12, Issue 3

Winter 2018

Working toward zero waste living

By making simple changes in our lives, we can greatly impact the amount of waste that ends up in a landfill, save energy, and conserve valuable natural resources.

On Jan. 25, participants of Carlton County Extension's Community Connect Class learned about some of those changes and heard about the concept of zero waste from Minnesota GreenCorps Member Josie Flatgard.

The goal of zero waste living is to keep as much waste out of the landfill as possible. This is achieved by first refusing what will not be used, reducing by taking only what is needed, reusing items that may otherwise be thrown



Left: Class participant Karen Tomczak pledged to bring a reusable container when eating out so she can put the leftover food in it to take home. **Right:** Attendees cut cloth and chose their preferred essential oil before adding it to the vinegar. They were encouraged to bring a jar from home to store the sheets in.

away, recycling items if they cannot be reused, and composting food scraps and yard waste into nutrient-rich fertilizer.

Participants were encouraged to write down a waste reduction pledge as a reminder. They also made reusable dryer sheets out of cloth, vinegar, and essential oils.

Make your own reusable dryer sheets

Materials

- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 8 drops tea tree or other essential oil
- Sealable container
- Cotton cloths

Directions

1. Cut cotton cloths into small rectangles.
2. Place cloths into container.
3. Mix vinegar and essential oil together.
4. Pour mixture over cloths until dampened, not soaked.

Effects from burning wood proven harmful

Fireplaces and woodstoves can be great sources for heat in the winter months. Unfortunately, some types have a greatly negative impact on the air quality.

A total of 20 old, non-EPA certified wood stoves, can emit more than 1 ton of fine particle pollution (PM 2.5) into your area during the cold months of the year (Environmental Protection Agency).

Fireplaces and woodstoves are direct sources of fine particles (PM 2.5) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Potential health effects of this pollution include cardiovascular and respira-

Woodsmoke:

Not all fires are equal

Pounds fine particles per MMBtu heat output



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

tory issues, irritation, and some can even have toxic effects.

To reduce the impact of residential woodburning on the air quality, check to ensure your woodstove is EPA certified.

Past efforts to encourage

purchasing a more environmentally friendly and efficient stove include Project Stove Swap, a 2017 grant project in Northeastern Minnesota. It was estimated that replacing one stove would reduce the pollution equivalent to taking 700 cars off of the road annually.



When the food waste taken to the Transfer Station is mixed with yard waste, it breaks down and becomes a nutrient-rich compost. (Photo courtesy of MPCA)

Manage your food waste

Collection of food waste at the Carlton County Transfer Station began in 2014. So far, a total of 47.7 tons of food waste has been diverted from the landfill and taken to Western Lakes Superior Sanitary District in Duluth. There, the food waste is mixed with yard waste and turned into a product to be used on gardens and in landscape designs.

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)

Rent and repair before recycling

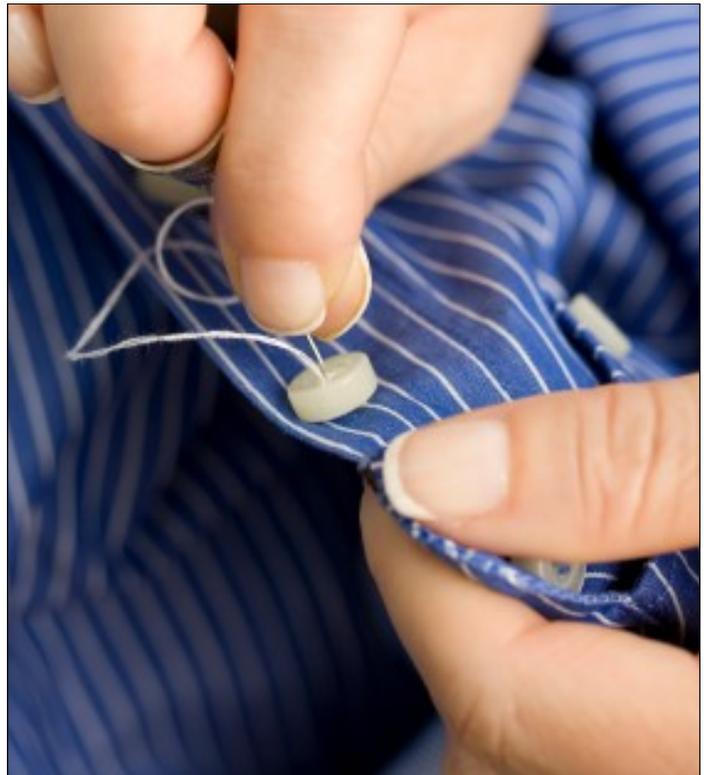
Next time a button falls off of a shirt or the lawn mower won't start, look to the following online resources before giving up hope. With a little TLC and help from how-to guides, your items will be back in good use in no time!

iFixit — www.ifixit.com

View step-by-step repair guides, pose or search for a question in the answers forum, and purchase parts and tools. Repair information is available for computers, phones, appliances, bikes, vehicles, and countless other items.

ReUSE MN — www.reusemn.org

Browse a directory of listings to find thrift stores, as well as rental and repair shops in your community. Simply select what you'd like to do — sell, buy, rent, fix, or donate, type in what you're searching for, and add your location. Information regarding relevant opportunities will appear.



iFixit has online guides with photos and videos demonstrating how to repair a variety of products, including how to sew a button back on a shirt. (Photo courtesy of MPCA)

Repair.org

A proposed bill in the Minnesota Legislature concerns the right of a consumer to repair their technology. It would require device manufacturers to provide shops that repair the items with necessary repair parts and information. Learn more about the issue at repair.org, the Repair Association's website, and share your story if you support the bill.

Follow us on social media

Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services is on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CarltonCountyZoning/.



We also have a Pinterest page! This can be found at 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.

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

Please report any illegal garbage dumping at these sites by calling 218-384-9178.

All recyclables **MUST** be clean, removed
from bags, and sorted into the proper bin.

Thank you for your help in preventing contamination!

Agricultural plastic collection

Carlton County is gathering information needed to start an agricultural plastics collection program for area farmers. Plastics are mainly used for temporary storage in wrapping hay bales and silage.

Until recently, recycling options for used agricultural plastics have not been widely available. Without a recycling option, the plastic has been stockpiled by farmers waiting for a lower cost and a more environmentally-friendly opportunity. Alternatively, plastic would be disposed of by taking it to the landfill.

The Revolution Plastics recycling program was started in Wisconsin and has reached several Minnesota communities since early 2017.

Interested farmers should contact the Resource and Recycling Coordinator at 218-384-9178.

Visit our Website

Go to ***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.**