

CARLTON COUNTY

RESOURCE AND RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2018

Planning a low-waste lake day

Whether at the beach, on the boat, or at the cabin, there are several ways to reduce the amount of waste generated. Check off the things you already do and pick one thing to try for the next day at the lake this summer.

- **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.
- **Bring reusable water bottles** for each member of the family and extra water to refill.
- **For beach-goers:** start your search for beach toys by going to second-hand stores or asking around.
- **Buy food in bulk or make your own** to reduce the amount of plastic packaging. Items like crackers and juice can be purchased in larger boxes or jugs instead of items packed individually.
- **Compost your food waste:** pick up a few green compostable bags from the cashier at the Carlton County Transfer Station. Collect food scraps and BPI certified compostable products in the bags and



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

- drop them off during open hours (see page 4).
- **Pack lunch and snacks in reusable containers:** ditch the plastic sandwich baggies and easily take leftovers back home to avoid wasting food, too.
- **Know what you can recycle:** check with your waste hauler or recycling center. If recycling is not available where you're headed, bring recyclables home for proper disposal.

Recycling plastic film other than grocery bags

A variety of items can be included with plastic grocery bags for recycling. Plastic that is clean, clear, and can be stretched with your thumb can be recycled with plastic grocery bags. All bags and film should be free of food or other residue and the zippers and hard plastic removed.

Recycled plastic film is made into new plastic bags, composite lumber, piping, and other products.

Visit <http://wlssd.com/services/recycling/misc-recyclables/> for more information.

What can be recycled with plastic grocery bags:

- Newspaper bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Bread bags
- Produce bags
- Toilet paper, napkin, and paper towel wraps
- Plastic retail bags (hard plastic and string handles removed)
- Plastic sandwich baggies (zipper removed)
- Plastic cereal box liners (if it tears like paper, do not include)
- Case wrap (e.g. snacks, water bottles)



Locations for plastic film drop-off:

- Super One Foods
- Walmart
- Cub Foods
- Whole Foods Co-op
- Other stores in the area may have collection locations. If you shop at a store often, ask if they have a recycling bin for shopping bags.



Photos courtesy of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Rethink recreational fires

Although their appeal is undeniable, burning wood releases fine particles and chemicals into the air. With so many people burning wood at home, backyard recreational fires have become a sizable source of fine-particle air pollution released into the air. (MPCA)

If you have a campfire:

1. Keep campfires brief and small -- 3 feet across or less.
2. Burn only dry firewood. It is illegal to burn garbage in a fire in Minnesota.
3. If having a fire along a shoreline, keep the fire contained in a ring and distanced from the water. Ashes can act as pollutants and should be kept out of lakes.

Keep an eye out for aquatic invasive species

Seven Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors are stationed at boat landings throughout Carlton County this summer. Their purpose is to educate the public about aquatic invasive species (AIS) when entering and exiting bodies of water.

Aquatic invasive species are species non-native to the place which they're inhabiting. They cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to humans.

When entering and exiting a lake, protect our waters by remembering to 'Clean, Drain, Dispose': clean all visible plants and other species from equipment, pull drain plugs on all wells, and dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. If possible, dry the watercraft for at least 5 days before taking it to another body of water.



Josh, a watercraft inspector, oversees an inspection at a boat landing. He and others are posted throughout Carlton County to educate boaters about aquatic invasive species and their harmful effects.

The GUEST-IMATOR
A DINNER PARTY CALCULATOR THAT ESTIMATES HOW MUCH FOOD YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR GUESTS FULL & HAPPY

GET STARTED

www.savethefood.com/guestimator/calculator

Use food planning calculator to estimate amounts needed

Plan the menu for a summer barbeque or family gathering. Visit savethefood.com to use a calculator to estimate the amounts needed. Simply input

the number of people eating and the types of food. Any leftovers can be brought to the Carlton County public food waste drop site (see below).

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)

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 April 1 - October 31

Monday - Saturday
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 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!

Visit the product exchange area

If items are found to be in usable condition at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located at the Transfer Station, they are placed in the product exchange area.



Enter the room using the door on the right of the building, and find paint, varnish, pesticides, and more. Take products home free of charge and get that weekend project accomplished!

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Transfer Station is open seasonally, mid-May to mid-October, **Tuesdays and Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Last day is Oct. 13, 2018.

Visit our website

Go to co.carlton.mn.us/254/Recycling

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.