

# CARLTON COUNTY

## RESOURCE AND RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2019



Bring your own containers to the produce section and shop the bulk aisle. Photo courtesy [msmarket.coop](http://msmarket.coop)

## Earth Day 2019: Adopt a Zero Waste Practice

Earth Day was founded in 1970 as a day for environmental education and awareness and is observed April 22. How about adopting a new habit that's good for the planet and future generations this year? The following are Zero Waste practices to give you some ideas. Zero Waste is aiming to send nothing to the landfill by reducing what you need, reuse as much as you can, and send as little as possible to be recycled or composted. This is a big shift from the typical American who throws away 4.4 pounds of trash each day, or 132 pounds a month.

As you can imagine, many lifestyle changes need to take place to reduce your trash from over 100 pounds a month to almost zero

pounds. Even if you are not ready to take on a full Zero Waste lifestyle, could you adopt one or more of these practices this year?

**Grocery Store:** Of course bring your bags for hauling your groceries home, but you can also bring your own cloth bags or re-use plastic bags for the produce you purchase. Skip the bagged apples and oranges and bag your own from the bulk produce.

- Switch an item you typically buy pre-packaged and bring your own container or bag for a bulk item. Most grocery stores have a bulk section that contains trail mixes, nuts, and sweets. Health food stores and local co-operative grocers typically have a large selection of bulk items including

nuts, oats, sugar, flours, and spices just to name a few.

- In general, buy products with minimal packaging. Bonus, these items are usually healthier food choices.

### **Thrift it before you buy it:**

Instead of ordering something new from Amazon, a Zero Waster would take a trip to the local thrift store. To be efficient, keep a running list of household things you need. Then when you have time to make that trip to the thrift store, you'll be prepared. It takes practice and experience to become a thrifter, but anyone can do it. You learn what common items can be found. For example, children's shoes and clothing can commonly be found in excellent or lightly

worn condition. New kids shoes are expensive, are made from non-recyclable materials, and are imported (hello carbon footprint!).

**Cleaning Your House:** Make your own cleaners. Cheap, effective, and safe. No plastic bottles sent to the recycling bin.

- Washable rags can be used instead of paper towels. Throw them in with the regular laundry. The same goes for using cloth napkins instead of paper napkins.

- Choose a mop with a removable head or cover that can be thrown in the washing machine.

**Restaurants:** Start saying no to the straw (It takes practice!). Some restaurants only provide them upon request or have eliminated them completely.

- Ask for regular instead of disposable/plastic cups for kids. Say no to the crayons, or bring your own for the kiddos.

- Get in the habit of having a take-home container in the car for leftovers.

**Zero Waste Duluth:** To learn more about Zero Waste practices, following a local source called Zero Waste Duluth on Facebook. Esko resident April Hepokoski operates the page which includes her monthly household trash inventory, which usually fits in a quart mason jar! You can also join in on a Zero Waste challenge or just view how others are attempting to shift to Zero Waste.

## Why is Zero Waste Even A Thing?

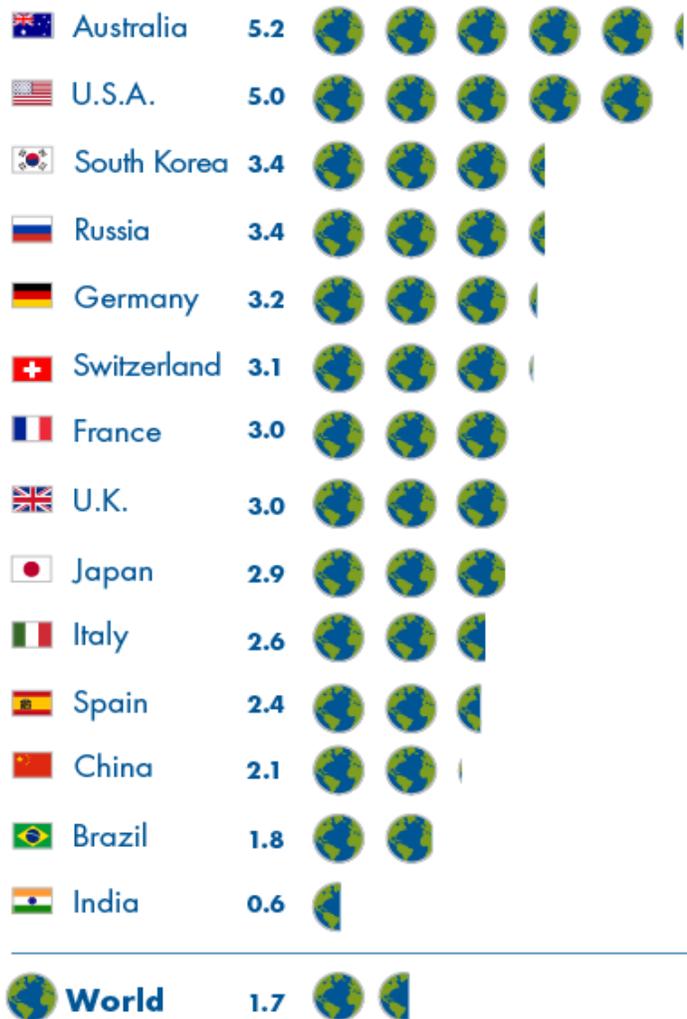
To put it simply, we are using Earth's resources faster than ecosystem's can regenerate. 1.7 times faster on a global scale, as calculated by the Global Footprint Network. If everyone on the planet currently consumed like an average American, the rate goes up to 5 times faster for consumption of Earth's resources than ecosystems can regenerate. That's five Earth's.

To bring awareness of this issue the Global Footprint Network compiles data to predict Global Overshoot Day each year. Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity has exhausted nature's budget for the year. You can learn more at [overshootday.org](http://overshootday.org)

You can quickly calculate your own ecological footprint at [footprintcalculator.org](http://footprintcalculator.org)

Questions include how much meat and dairy your family eats, how far you drive on your daily commute, how much trash you generate, and how many hours you fly in an airplane each year.

### How many Earths do we need if the world's population lived like...



Source: Global Footprint Network National Footprint Accounts 2017

# Earth Day 2019: Adopt A Drain

It's the season of spring cleaning! Hooray for clean homes everywhere! However, who's bothering to clean up our outdoors this season? Ever take

a peek at the all those dirtied storm drains and curbsides from the harsh winter season we had? We might think nothing of that grit, leaf litter, and trash that

accumulates to be washed away but it turns out to be the number one source of water pollution from cities and towns. We maybe expect our public works departments to handle this problem, but they neither have the time or resources to continually sweep streets to collect road debris. That's where the Carlton County

Adopt a Drain program comes in. The Carlton Soil & Water Conservation District started this volunteer initiative to help educate residents about the pollution occurring right outside their front door and encourage their abilities in keeping our waterways pristine! With only a broom and rake, a container for collecting debris, and 15 minutes every two weeks residents can make a lasting impact both locally and downstream. Currently in Carlton County you can Adopt A Drain in Cloquet, Scanlon, Carlton, Thomson, and Moose Lake.

Find the program online at <https://carltonswcd.org/adopt-a-drain>

For more information or questions, contact MN GreenCorps member Chris Gass at 218-384-3891, ext. 5 or [chris.gass@carltonswcd.org](mailto:chris.gass@carltonswcd.org)



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# Don't have a backyard compost? You can still recycle your food waste in Carlton County.

**What:** Carlton County's public food waste drop site.

**Where:** Carlton County Transfer Station, 1950 Highway 210, Carlton, MN

**How:** Get info and free compostable bags from the cashier.

**When:** Regular Transfer Station hours

April 1 - October 31

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



## Household Hazardous Waste Opening Tuesday, May 7th

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Transfer Station

will re-open for the season Tuesday, May 7th. Materials can

be brought **Tuesdays and Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Last day will be Saturday, Oct. 12th.



The following are common items that should be brought to us.

- Latex paint
- Oil paint
- Stain and varnish
- Pesticides
- Gasoline & other fuels
- Solvents
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats
- Pool chemicals
- Fluorescent lightbulbs
- Rechargeable batteries
- Cleaners
- Items with unlabeled/unknown contents

*Visit our Product Reuse area for FREE products to use on your summer home improvement projects. Open during regular Transfer Station hours.*

# 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 - Friday

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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.



## Borrow These Event Bins

It's easy, just visit [co.carlton.mn.us/254/Recycling](http://co.carlton.mn.us/254/Recycling). Click on the application and fill in the form online or call 218-384-9178. The Resource & Recycling Coordinator can provide you with low waste and effective recycling strategies, if desired.

Have a  
specific  
question?



Call the Resource & Recycling  
Coordinator at  
218-384-9178  
or email  
[recycling@co.carlton.mn.us](mailto:recycling@co.carlton.mn.us)