

## Pack a No Waste Lunch

Did you know that kids can produce up to 67 pounds of lunch waste annually? Those juice boxes, sandwich bags, and lunch bags can really add up! Reduce waste and save money by packing your child a “no-waste lunch” for school. A “no-waste lunch” is a meal that does not end up in the trash. Below are some tips to get you started.



- Use a fun, reusable lunch container for everyday use. For ideas, visit [www.laptoplunches.com](http://www.laptoplunches.com)
- Pack reusable utensils and a cloth napkin, and don't forget to bring them home to wash and reuse.
- Replace plastic bags with a set of reusable food containers for sandwiches, snacks, and dips. Avoid buying individually wrapped items. Instead, purchase large bags of food and portion them into reusable food containers. Buying in bulk not only saves resources but saves money, too!
- Fill a reusable bottle with juice made from concentrate rather than buying individual-sized drink boxes.
- Pack only what your child can eat. Don't overfill a lunch with food that will only be thrown away.

For more ways to reduce waste visit [www.reduce.org](http://www.reduce.org)

## Choose to Reuse: Egg-Carton Herb Garden

The average Minnesotan generates 6 pounds of trash a day. Reduce waste by turning your trash into treasure!

**What you need:** an empty egg carton (styrofoam or cardboard) with a few small drainage holes punched in the bottom of each cell, a variety of herb seed packets, potting soil, popsicle sticks, permanent marker, and plastic wrap.

### What you do:

- 1) Read the directions on the seed packs for information on planting depth and other recommendations.
- 2) Spoon potting soil into each cell and plant a different herb in each cell.
- 3) Write the name of each herb on a popsicle stick and place it in the corresponding cell.
- 4) Lightly water your herb-garden (use a drain dish to collect the excess water).
- 5) Cover the egg carton tightly with plastic wrap and set in a warm spot, out of direct sunlight. When herbs sprout, remove plastic wrap and water every few days.

Tell us about your favorite way to reuse trash! Your project could be highlighted in the next Environmental Update. Email ideas to [Shannon.Lee@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:Shannon.Lee@co.washington.mn.us)

## Clean out your clutter!

Check out [www.twincitiesfreemarket.org](http://www.twincitiesfreemarket.org) for a great way to give and get FREE stuff for your home, garage, and garden!

Log on to list reusable items or just browse the catalog for furniture, appliances, electronics, exercise equipment, lawn and garden tools, and more!



[twincitiesfreemarket.org](http://twincitiesfreemarket.org)  
it's easy, it's fast, and it's free!

Twin Cities Free Market is a reuse program provided by Eureka Recycling, funded in part by Washington County.

## Climate Change in Minnesota

Our climate has changed throughout the Earth's history, having undergone intervals of both warming and cooling. The current warming trend is of particular significance, because it is proceeding at a rate that is unprecedented in the past 1,300 years. For a list of answers to frequently asked questions about climate change, visit [www.epa.gov/climatechange/fq/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/fq/index.html)

**What is Minnesota Doing?** In 2007, Governor Tim Pawlenty signed into law legislation that set a *renewable energy* requirement of 25 percent by the year 2025, and also signed the Next Generation Energy Act, which addresses climate change and energy efficiency. This legislation established statewide *greenhouse gas reduction* goals of 15 percent by 2015, 30 percent by 2025, and 80 percent by 2050.

As part of the Next Generation Energy Act, a Climate Mitigation Action Plan was developed by the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group, with members representing the following sectors: energy, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, tourism and recreation, health care, non-governmental organizations, academia, and state and local government. This report is available at [www.mnclimatechange.us/MCCAG](http://www.mnclimatechange.us/MCCAG)

**What Can Each of Us Do?** We can minimize our impact by making small but significant changes at home, at work, and on the go. For more ideas visit [www.wecansolveit.org/content/pages/20/](http://www.wecansolveit.org/content/pages/20/)

- Take the MN Energy Challenge! Go to [www.mnenergychallenge.org](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org) and take steps to reduce carbon emissions.
- Unplug electronics & power strips. Appliances and electronics can use energy even while they're turned off.
- Buy compact fluorescent light bulbs. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
- Buy green power. Learn more at [www.pca.state.mn.us/greenpower](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/greenpower)
- Recycle! In 2007, Washington County residents saved enough energy through recycling to power over 9,000 homes for one year.
- Get better gas mileage. Visit [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov) for purchasing & maintenance tips.
- Carpool. Visit [www.metrotransit.org](http://www.metrotransit.org) (click on “rideshare”) to find a partner.

Information was obtained from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at [www.epa.gov/climatechange/fq/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/fq/index.html) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) at [www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/globalwarming.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/globalwarming.html)



## Why Should We Care?

Climate change will likely affect our daily life, including jobs and recreational activities. Here are a few changes Minnesotans can expect:

- Increased evaporation due to a warmer climate may lower river flow and lower lake levels, particularly in the summer.
- Ground water - the primary source of drinking water in Minnesota - also could be reduced.
- Coldwater species such as trout may decline.
- Higher temperatures and increased frequency of heat waves may increase the number of heat-related deaths.
- Warming could expand the habitat of disease-carrying insects, primarily mosquitoes.
- Shorter season of snow and ice cover, less winter recreational opportunities.

## Are You Ready for Digital TV?

The countdown is on! At midnight on February 17, 2009, all television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting, which promises to provide a clearer picture and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders. If your television receives signals from an antenna and your TV was manufactured before March 2006, you will need to take extra steps to continue receiving free TV. The switch will not affect cable and satellite TV users since they will automatically receive the digital signals from their provider.



### What Are Your Options?

1) **Buy a set-top converter box.** A converter box plugs into your TV and will keep it working after Feb. 17, 2009. Two free \$40 coupons per household are being provided by the federal government to offset the cost of the converter boxes. You can request a coupon, while supplies last, through March 31, 2009:

- Apply online at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)
- Call the 24-hour hotline 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009)
- Mail a coupon application to: PO BOX 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000  
Applications can be downloaded at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)
- Fax a coupon application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632)

2) **Subscribe to cable or satellite TV service.**

Subscribers to these services will not be affected by this transition.

3) **Buy a new TV with a built-in digital tuner.**

Don't forget to recycle any unused televisions. A single TV can contain two to eight pounds of lead. Drop-off your TV for free at the Hazardous Materials Collection Site in Oakdale. See page 5E for more information.



Minnesota 4-H has teamed with Best Buy to help communities prepare for the Digital TV (DTV) switch. Washington County's 4-H DTV team is providing free education and support to communities. To learn how they can help your community visit [www.fourh.umn.edu/](http://www.fourh.umn.edu/) and look for the 4-H DTV Team logo call 651-430-6800.

## Answers to Your Disposal Questions

Check out the **Washington County Residential Disposal Guide** to find out how to reuse, recycle, or dispose of just about anything, from appliances to yard waste.



[www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth)

and click on *Residential Disposal Guide*

## Has Your Home Been Tested for Radon?

Radon is a natural, odorless, colorless, radioactive gas that enters homes through the soil. It is a leading cause of lung cancer deaths, second only to smoking. Radon is a common problem in Minnesota homes because much of the soil in Minnesota contains uranium and radium, which continuously breaks down to release radon gas.

Testing your home for radon is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk. Free radon test kits are available to Washington County residents through a State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG). Testing is simple and does not take much time.

Contact 651-430-6655 to reserve your kit today! Reserved kits can be picked up at one of three locations throughout the County: the service centers in Cottage Grove and Forest Lake, as well as the Government Center in Stillwater.

## Don't Freeze Your Water-Based Paints

Winter is almost here and it's time to prepare for the colder temperatures ahead. Water-based products such as latex paint, stain, and driveway sealer may become unusable if they freeze. Follow these simple storage tips to make sure your paint makes it through the Minnesota winter.

- Read the product label for proper storage. You can tell if your products are water-based by checking the label for "Keep from freezing" or "Clean up with water".
- Store water-based products in a dry environment that is above 40° F, such as a basement.
- Always keep products separate and in clearly marked closed containers.

**Can't use it up?** Bring it to the Hazardous Materials Collection Site in Oakdale. All of the latex paint brought into the collection site can be reused or recycled. Most latex paint and stain in good condition will be set out in the Reuse Room for someone else to use. Check out page 4E/5E for more information.

## Help Spread the Word about Recycling

Ever wonder what recycled tires eventually become or what commonly recycled item is used to make clothing?

Find the answers to these questions and more by borrowing a recycled products kit. Last year, over 10,000 people saw a recycled products kit at various events, scout meetings, businesses, and schools around Washington County. The kits show what items are made from our commonly recycled materials, including new products such as insulation made from denim and countertop material made from compressed paper. The popular aluminum block is also included in the kits, suitable for use in a guessing contest. Also included are fact sheets that help show how materials are recycled and puzzles and worksheets to help reinforce what the kit teaches.



Kits can be picked up from three convenient locations: the service centers in Cottage Grove and Forest Lake, as well as the Government Center in Stillwater. Please call the Department of Public Health and Environment at 651-430-6655 if you'd like more information or would like to reserve a kit.

## Protect Your Children! Check out a New Website



Unborn babies, infants, and children have an increased chance of exposure to toxins. Children play and crawl on the floor, put things into their mouths, and their bodies are developing at an extremely rapid rate, so any exposure can permanently affect them during this vulnerable time. Another factor is that infants and children have a much higher percentage of body fat than adults. Toxins, such as lead and mercury, are stored by the body in the fat. Chemical concentration in the bodies of infants and children can become dangerously high.

Washington County has developed a new website where parents and caregivers can access resources and take action on a variety of children's environmental health topics. Topics include chemical safety, drinking water, mercury exposure, and more.

Learn more to protect your children. Visit [www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth) and click on "Children's Environmental Health".

# Washington County Recycling Information

for residents of Washington County

## Curbside Recycling Pickup: what, where and when

All of the cities and townships in Washington County offer curbside pickup of these materials.

Call your collector for sorting details.

### Paper



### Metal cans

Aluminum, Tin (steel)



### Glass Jars and bottles

(all colors)



### Plastic bottles

Plastic bottles with a neck marked: 1 or 2



Some collectors accept additional types of plastic bottles. Refer to information provided by your city or recycler.

\*Please **do not** recycle motor oil bottles or containers that have held hazardous material

### Available in selected cities only

Curbside recycling of:

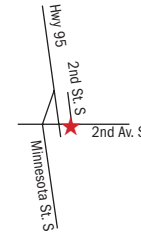


City/Township	Collection Days	Collector	Phone
Afton +	Weekly, on trash day	Highland Sanitation	651-458-0043
Bayport	Every other Monday	Allied Waste	651-455-8634
Baytown Twp +	Every Wednesday	Maroney's Sanitation	651-439-7279
Birchwood	Every other Monday	Waste Management	952-890-1100
Cottage Grove	On trash day	Trash Haulers	Hauler
Dellwood	Every other Thursday	Waste Management	952-890-1100
Denmark Twp	2 X Month on trash day	Trash Haulers	Hauler
Forest Lake + ♦ ♦	Every other week on trash day	Forest Lake Sanitation	651-464-2321
Grant	Every other Monday	Waste Management	952-890-1100
Grey Cloud Is Twp	Every Tuesday	Tennis Sanitation	651-459-1887
Hugo +	On trash day	Trash Haulers	Hauler
Lake Elmo	On trash day	Trash Haulers	Hauler
Lake St. Croix Beach	Every other Thursday	Waste Management	952-890-1100
Lakeland	Every Thursday	Maroney's Sanitation	651-439-7279
Lakeland Shores	Every Thursday	Maroney's Sanitation	651-439-7279
Landfall	Every Wednesday	Tennis Sanitation	651-459-1887
Mahtomedi	Every other Monday	Waste Management	952-890-1100
Marine on St. Croix	Every other Monday	Waste Management	952-890-1100
May Twp	On trash day	Trash Haulers	Hauler
Newport	On trash day	Trash Haulers	Hauler
Oak Park Hts	Weekly, on trash day	Veolia ES	651-459-3029
Oakdale	Weekly, on trash day	Trash Haulers	Hauler
Pine Springs	Every other Thursday	Waste Management	952-890-1100
St. Mary's Point	Every other Thursday	Waste Management	952-890-1100
St. Paul Park	On trash day	Trash Haulers	Hauler
Scandia + ♦ ♦	North of Hwy 97: Every Other Fri. South: Every Other Thursday	Forest Lake Sanitation	651-464-2321
Stillwater	Every other week	Waste Management	952-890-1100
Stillwater Twp	On trash day	Trash Haulers	Hauler
West Lakeland Twp	Every other Friday	Waste Management	952-890-1100
White Bear Lake + ♦	Weekly, on trash day	Veolia ES	651-459-3029
Willernie	Every other Monday	Waste Management	952-890-1100
Woodbury	On trash day	Trash Haulers	Hauler

# Washington County Yard Waste Dropoff & Compost Sites

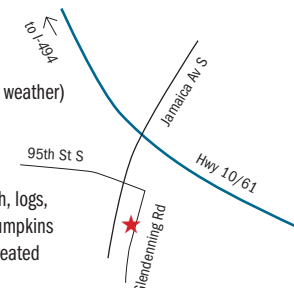
### Bayport: River City Services

**Location:** 201 2nd Ave S  
**Open to:** All Washington County Residents  
**Phone:** 651-430-2809  
**Dates:** Open year-round  
**Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 3 p.m.-5 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Accepted:** Brush, Christmas trees, stumps, tree waste, treated wood



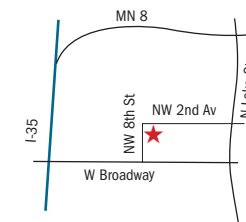
### Cottage Grove: Rumpca Companies Inc.

**Location:** 9600 Glendenning Road  
**Open to:** All Washington County residents  
**Phone:** 651-459-1556  
**Dates:** April 1 - November 1 (dates may vary due to weather)  
**Hours:** M - F: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Sat: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (In fall, site will close at dusk)  
**Accepted:** Yard waste, leaves, grass clippings, brush, logs, soil/sod, stumps, wood pallets, wood waste and pumpkins (Christmas trees also accepted - call for details). Treated wood is not accepted.  
**Available:** Finished compost, mulch, topsoil, and limestone.



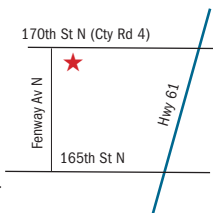
### Forest Lake

**Location:** Bixby Park (Corner of 8th Street NE and 2nd Avenue NE)  
**Open to:** Residents of Forest Lake  
**Phone:** 651-464-3550  
**Fall:** Oct. 6 - Nov. 16  
**Hours:** M & W: 1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Sat & Sun: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
**Accepted:** Debagged leaves, brush, and trees (no larger than 3" in diameter)  
**Available:** Finished compost



### Hugo

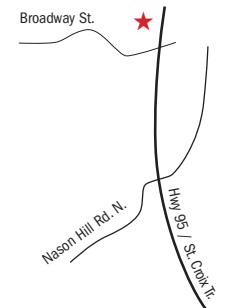
**Location:** 170th Street N (1/2 mile west of Highway 61 on County Road 4)  
**Open to:** Residents of Hugo  
**Phone:** 651-429-6676  
**Dates:** mid-April - mid-November  
**Hours:** Saturday & Sunday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
**Accepted:** Grass clippings, leaves, and soft organic matter  
**Available:** Finished compost



**Note:** Please contact compost sites for additional information and a list of prices. Dates and hours of operation depend on daylight and weather conditions. Sites are closed on major holidays.

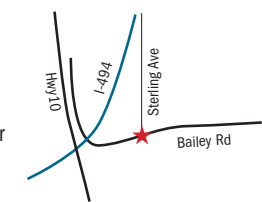
### Marine on the St. Croix

**Location:** North on Highway 95, next to the community drainfield  
**Open to:** Residents of Marine  
**Phone:** 651-433-3636  
**Dates:** April - October  
**Hours:** Wednesday: Noon - 7 p.m. or dusk Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Accepted:** Debagged leaves and grass clippings  
**Available:** Finished compost



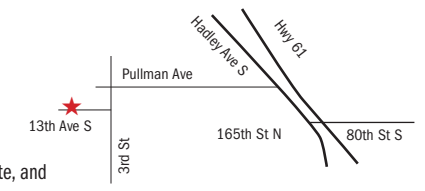
### Newport

**Location:** 1100 Bailey Road (Corner of Bailey Road and Sterling Avenue)  
**Open to:** Residents of Newport  
**Phone:** 651-459-5677  
**Dates:** 2nd Saturday in April - 2nd Saturday in November  
**Hours:** Wednesday & Friday: 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Accepted:** Grass, leaves and brush



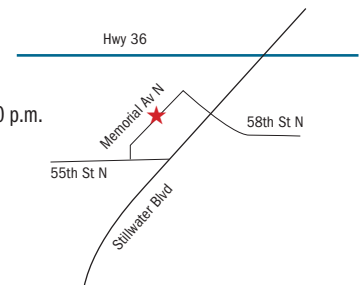
### St. Paul Park

**Location:** Located near Riverside Park. Take 3rd St to 13th Ave and follow the signs.  
**Open to:** Residents of St. Paul Park  
**Phone:** 651-459-9785  
**Dates:** April 7 - Nov 10  
**Hours:** M & W: 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sun: 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
**Accepted:** Leaves, grass, garden waste, and brush (no limbs larger than 4" in diameter) Buckthorn is accepted free of charge, but must be separated from other materials  
**Available:** Finished compost and wood chips



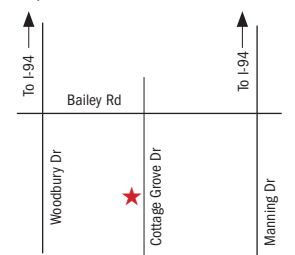
### Stillwater: Buberl Recycling and Composting

**Location:** 5750 Memorial Avenue North (Behind Stillwater Motors and west of entrance to Stillwater High School)  
**Open to:** All Washington County Residents  
**Phone:** 651-439-8399  
**Dates:** Open year-round  
**Hours:** Fall: Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Saturday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Accepted:** Leaves, grass clippings, brush, stumps, and treated wood (Christmas trees also accepted - call for details)  
**Available:** Finished compost and mulch



### Woodbury: Composting Concepts

**Location:** Composting Concepts, 4600 Cottage Grove Drive (1/2 mile south on Cottage Grove Drive from Bailey Road)  
**Open to:** Anyone  
**Phone:** 651-436-1213  
**Dates:** April 1 - Thanksgiving  
**Hours:** M - Sat 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Wednesday is Senior's Day: 1/2 price, 65 and over (Grass and leaves only)  
**Accepted:** De-bagged leaves and grass, yard waste, brush, and pumpkins (Christmas trees also accepted - call for details)  
**Available:** Finished compost and wood chips



# Hazardous Materials Are in Every Home

## Disposal options for residents

Washington County offers free hazardous materials dropoff for its residents at a year-round site located in Oakdale.

Proof of County residency, such as a driver's license, is required.



### Hazardous Materials Collection Site ★

1900 Hadley Avenue N. — Oakdale  
(look for Household Hazardous Waste signs)

**Tuesdays: 12 p.m. — 7 p.m.**  
**Thursdays: 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.**  
**Saturdays: 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.**

Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's & other major holidays



Check out the **Reuse Room**



Free paint, automotive products, cleaners, and other products. Residents only, 18+.

Pack it up. Bring it in.

### Hazardous materials Accepted

#### Household products

Aerosols  
Cleaners  
Fluorescent bulbs  
Mercury switches & thermometers  
Paint



Roofing tar  
Thinners and solvents



#### Automotive products

Brake fluid  
Car batteries  
Driveway/garage sealers  
Gasoline  
Used oil and filters



#### Lawn and garden products

Herbicides  
Insecticides  
Pesticides  
Wood preservatives, stains



#### Hobby/recreation products

Ammunition  
Fire extinguishers  
Fireworks  
Glues, paints  
Lighter fluid  
Pool chemicals  
Propane tanks  
Rechargeable batteries  
Used cooking oil



### Materials Not accepted

• Appliances  
• Asbestos  
• Construction waste  
• Explosives  
• Medical waste, including needles  
• Tires  
• Trash  
• Treated wood  
• Yard waste

#### Do this:

- Please bring only accepted items. See list at left.
- Transport items in a paper bag, cardboard box, or plastic tote and put them in the trunk away from children.
- Arrange bottles and cans in a single layer, upright and sealed. Paint cans may be double-stacked.
- All containers must be sealed with a tight lid or cap.
- Label materials that are not in their original containers.
- Oil, antifreeze, and gas containers may be returned for reuse. Put such waste in a clearly marked container, no more than ¾ full.
- Bundle fluorescent tubes with rubber bands. Please don't tape.
- Place a piece of tape over contacts for rechargeable batteries to avoid sparking.



#### Don't do this:

- **Do not put your items in a plastic bag.** Use a box or a grocery-style paper bag to keep bottles and cans arranged and upright.
- **Do not mix or combine chemicals!** Pouring chemicals together can be dangerous and prevents recycling.
- **No empties.** Empty containers may be placed in the trash.



## New! Free! 2 locations Electronics Recycling

**E CRT Processing, LLC**  
See map  
3350 Granada, Suite 150  
Oakdale

Tues: 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.  
Thurs: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

★ See map  
Electronics at the  
**Hazardous Materials Collection Site**  
1900 Hadley Ave. N,  
Oakdale

Sat: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
(Saturdays only!)

### Electronics Accepted

Computers  
Computer monitors  
Peripherals  
(keyboards, mice, speakers, etc.)  
Printers  
TVs  
DVD & VCR Players  
Fax Machines

Questions? Call 651-430-6655 • [www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth)