

In one year, 112 million lbs. of materials—steel, glass, plastic and other metals—were recycled or reused from electronic waste.

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The Recycling Zone

Electronics / paint / tires
cans / fluorescent bulbs
fertilizer / lawn mowers
oil filters / pesticides
cleaners / and more...

The Recycling Zone Drop-Off Days and Hours:

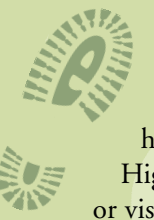
Household Hazardous Waste

Wednesday: 3pm-8pm
Thursday: 12pm-5pm
Friday: Closed
Saturday: 9am-2pm

Recycling

Wednesday: 9am-8pm
Thursday: 12pm-8pm
Friday: 9am-5pm
Saturday: 8am-5pm

The Recycling Zone is located at 3365 South Highway 149 in Eagan, just north of Yankee Doodle Rd; the entrance is off of Hwy 149, behind Gopher Resource Corporation.



The Recycling Zone (formerly The Dakota County Eco-Site)

The Recycling Zone is a drop-off facility, for Dakota County residents, that accepts household hazardous waste, recyclables and electronics. It is located at 3365 South Highway 149 in Eagan. For more information call the Recycling Zone at 651-905-4520 or visit www.dakotacounty.us and search "Recycling Zone".

MATERIALS ACCEPTED AND SERVICES OFFERED

Household Hazardous Waste



Automotive

Auto Batteries
Antifreeze
Degreasers
Oils/Filters
Tires (fee)



Lawn and Garden

Bug spray
Fertilizer
Insect killer
Lighter fluid
Pesticides
Pool chemicals
Weed killer



Household Items

Aerosols
Button batteries
Cooking oil/grease
Drain cleaner
Fluorescent lights/bulbs
Home sharps (needles, syringes, lancets)



Home Improvement

Concrete cleaner
Driveway sealer
Latex paint
Oil-based paint
Paint thinner
Solvents

Scrap Metal

Bicycles
Grills
Lawn Mowers
Any item made from metal

Compost Bin Sales

Backyard compost bins are available for a fee.

Electronic Waste (for a fee):



Answering machines
Calculators
CD players/recorders
Cell-phones
Copiers
Computer equipment--towers, hard drives, monitors

DVD and tape players/recorders
Electronic games
Electronic organizers (PDAs)
Fax machines
Keyboards
Laptops
Modems
Monitors/terminals
Phonographs
Printers
Scanners
Radios
Stereo equipment
Telephones
Televisions
Typewriters
VCRs
Any household electronic item that has a circuit board

Recyclables

Recyclable materials are accepted from both residents and businesses and should be separated by type. See the list of acceptable items under the Recycling section in this E-Guide. Call the Recycling Zone to arrange for loads larger than a pick-up truck or for specific information.



Cash for Aluminum Cans

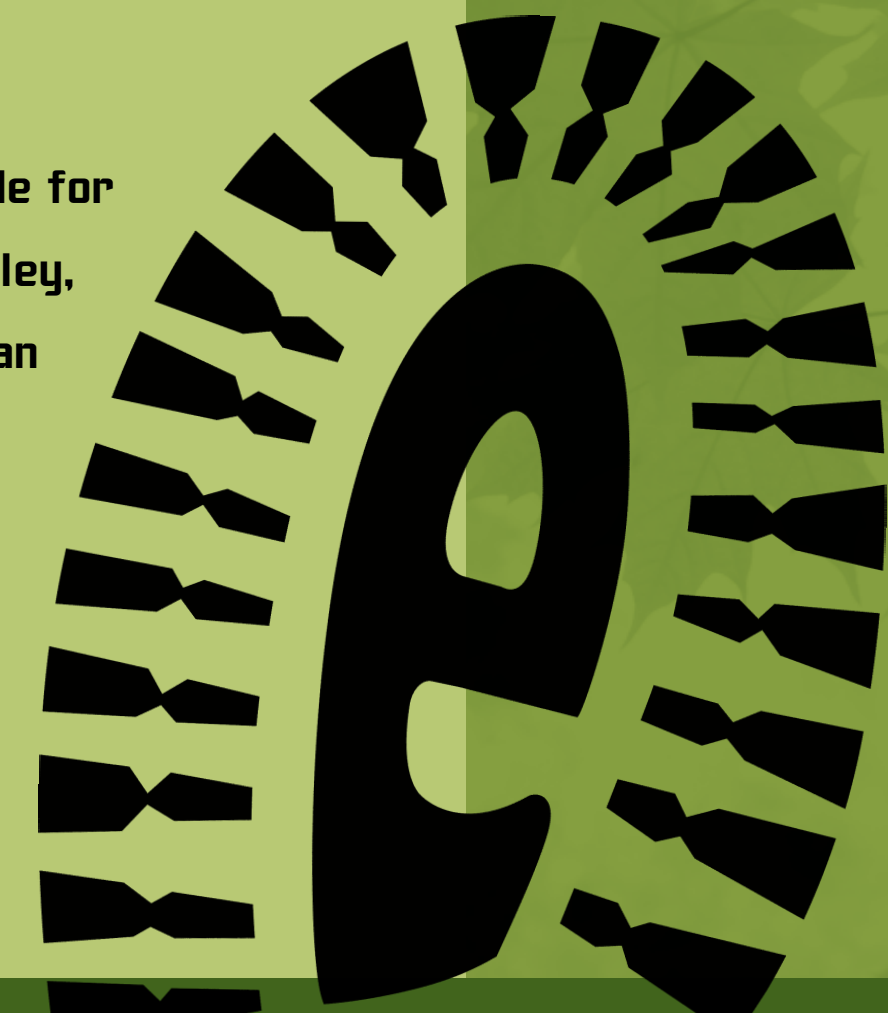
Call the Recycling Zone for redemption prices.

Product Reuse

Usable household chemical products and paint in the reuse area are free for the taking.

An environmental guide for the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville and Eagan

For more information on recycling, composting, and waste disposal for residents please visit our website at www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org or call our hotline at 952-895-4559.



SPECIAL ECO-FOOTPRINT ISSUE

Our Eco-Footprint

Every day we are using resources and producing waste that puts a strain on the earth. The phrase "ecological footprint" represents the impact that we have on the earth—the resources needed and the amount of waste that we generate from our activities and habits.

We can make choices in our day-to-day lives that reduce our impact on the environment. Such a sustainable lifestyle can improve our quality of life, help protect the environment for future generations, and save us money all at the same time. Even if you're not ready to take on a whole new lifestyle, you can take small steps on the green living path; steps that will lessen your ecological footprint on the earth. The ideas in this E-Guide are easy to do and promote a sustainable, green lifestyle.



There are also many organizations and programs that can help you calculate and learn about your individual or household ecological footprint as well as all other things green; consider looking at the following websites to learn more:

The Global Footprint Network
www.footprintnetwork.org

Redefining Progress
www.myfootprint.org

Conservation International
www.conservation.org

Low Impact Living
www.lowimpactliving.com

Rethink Recycling --Twin Cities Guide
www.rethinkrecycling.com

Do It Green! Minnesota
www.doitgreen.org

NextStep - MN Sustainable Communities Network
www.nextstep.state.mn.us

This guide is funded in part by Dakota Valley Recycling, Dakota County Board of Commissioners and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Contact Dakota Valley Recycling in Eagan at 651-675-5011 and in Burnsville or Apple Valley at 952-895-4559



Recycle and Reuse

Fluorescent Bulbs

The average person generates 600 times their adult weight in garbage during their lifetime.

Visit www.EnergyStar.gov to see fluorescent bulbs in all shapes and sizes, to fit almost any fixture.



Benefits of Recycling

Recycling is an oldie but a goodie when it comes to being green. It is so easy to do, and it matters more than you think.

These are some of the benefits of recycling—and how it lessens your ecological footprint:

Use less energy—recycling a single aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television for three hours. In total, metro area recycling of metal, glass and plastics in 2006 saved enough energy to heat over 78,000 houses for the year.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions—Recycling cans and bottles in the Twin Cities eliminated the equivalent of 125,000 vehicle's greenhouse gas emissions in 2006.

Save natural resources—Recycling aluminum reduces water consumption and air pollutants by 95 percent. Making glass from recycled material cuts water pollution by 50 percent.

Create jobs—The plastic recycling industry provides jobs for more than 52,000 American workers.



Trash or Treasure?

Don't trash the slightly used items that clutter your closet, basement or garage. Instead, donate items that are still in good, working condition so they can be reused by others. Below is a list of organizations that accept various items. It is recommended to call first.

Clothing, furniture and household items:

- Bridging, Inc. • Bloomington • 952-888-1105
- C.H.A.P. Thrift Store • Burnsville • 952-890-8222
- Dakota Woodlands • Eagan • 651-456-9110
- Goodwill • Apple Valley • 952-953-4410
- Lupus Foundation of Minnesota • Bloomington • 651-748-0400
- Neighbors, Inc. • South St. Paul • 651-455-1508
- Salvation Army-Burnsville Family & Thrift Store • Burnsville • 952-435-7462

Building materials:

- Habitat for Humanity Restore • Minneapolis • 612-588-3820
- Reuse Center • Minneapolis • 612-724-2608

Did you know that The Recycling Zone has a "Product Reuse Area"?

Household chemical products and paint that are brought in by residents and considered still usable are put on the shelf and are free for the taking! See information about The Recycling Zone on the back page.

Fluorescent Bulbs = Good Sense

Using energy-efficient fluorescent light bulbs makes good sense—you save money on electric bills and help protect the environment. They have many great benefits:

- Fluorescent bulbs last five to ten times longer than incandescent bulbs.
- Fluorescent bulbs use only one-fourth as much energy as equivalent conventional incandescent bulbs, reducing fossil fuel emissions at power plants.
- Using fluorescent bulbs can save \$30-\$50 in energy costs over the lifetime of the bulb.

However, compact fluorescent, fluorescent tubes, high intensity discharge (HID) and other non-incandescent bulbs do contain mercury and must be recycled. Even though it is a small amount, the mercury can be harmful to our health and the environment and in Minnesota, it is illegal to place fluorescent or HID lamps in the garbage. Fluorescent bulbs are safe to use—no mercury is released when the bulbs are in use. Just make sure to store, install and dispose of them properly to prevent breakage and exposure to mercury.

Why advocate using a bulb that has mercury in it? By using less energy, fluorescent bulbs actually prevent more mercury from being released into the air by power plants. A power plant emits about 10 mg of mercury to produce the electricity needed to run a conventional (incandescent) bulb, compared to only 2.4 mg of mercury to run a compact fluorescent bulb for the same amount of time.



When the time comes for recycling old fluorescent bulbs, there are several options in the area.

- The Recycling Zone, the Dakota County recycling facility in Eagan, accepts all types of residential fluorescent bulbs. See the back page for more information on The Recycling Zone.
- The cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville and Eagan all have drop-off sites for the compact fluorescent bulbs; please call 952-895-4511 for more information.
- All Home Depot and many local Menards locations offer recycling for compact fluorescent bulbs.

What Can I Recycle At Home?

These guidelines apply to residents in Dakota County.

Plastic	Glass	Metal	Paper
<p>Yes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic bottles and jugs • Water, soda and juice bottles • Milk and juice jugs • Ketchup and salad dressing bottles • Dishwashing and detergent bottles • Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles <p>NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margarine, cottage cheese, cream cheese and other tubs • Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups • Microwaveable food trays • Produce, deli and take out containers • Plastic wrap and bags* • Toys • Containers that held hazardous automotive and yard products, such as motor oil and pesticides <p><small>* Plastic shopping bags are recyclable at many local grocery stores</small></p>	<p>YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass food and beverage bottles and jars <p>NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking glasses, mugs, dishes, cookware, pottery and vases • Window and mirror glass • Containers that held hazardous products, such as nail polish and hobby paints 	<p>YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metal food and beverage cans <p>NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint cans • Aerosol cans • Containers that held hazardous products, such as paint thinner and automotive fluids 	<p>YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail, office and school papers • Magazines and catalogs • Newspapers and inserts • Phone books • Shredded paper in closed paper bags • Cardboard boxes • Boxes from toothpaste, medications and other toiletries • Boxes from cereal, crackers, pasta and other dry foods <p>NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pizza boxes, egg cartons or boxes soiled with food • Boxes from refrigerated or frozen foods • Paper towels, napkins, cups and plates • Gift wrap

The energy it takes to recycle is nothing compared to the energy it saves. For example: It takes 95% less energy to make aluminum cans from recycled material than it does to produce them from scratch — trash a single can and it's like dumping 6 ounces of gasoline.



Every can, every bottle, every piece of paper counts. Recycle more.

Recycling information provided by: RethinkRecycling.com



Sustainable Food Choices

What sort of ecological footprint does food leave on the earth? From the growth of crops, to the production, transportation and distribution of food, the impacts are staggering. There are sustainable food choices available; you just have to know what to look for.

Consider your choices by how foods are produced—learn the differences between conventional and sustainable agriculture and the impacts that they have. Sustainable agriculture focuses on producing quality food by prioritizing the environment, the humane treatment of animals and supporting farming communities.

Another concept is the idea of "food miles"—how far food travels from the farm to the market. Buying local foods is a good choice for environmental reasons, including reducing the amount of fuel and emissions to transport it to your plate. Statistics show that produce travels an average of 1,500 miles to reach the market; for a typical semi-trailer load, this corresponds to about 250 gallons of diesel fuel. For more information on sustainable food in general visit: www.SustainableTable.org.



What can you do to reduce the impact of your food choices?

1. Seek out local foods at farmers' markets, co-ops or from Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms. These all supply foods that come from local or regionally based farms that support sustainable food production. Ask the farmer about his sustainability practices. Know local growing seasons for different types of food, and focus on those foods that are abundant, fresh and in season.

- Farmers' Markets in the Twin Cities: Minnesota Department of Agriculture www.mda.state.mn.us/food/ (look within the Minnesota Grown Directory)
- Co-ops in the Twin Cities: www.twincitiesfood.coop
- List of CSA farms in the region and other sustainable food information: www.landstewardshipproject.org

2. Look for eco-friendly food labels. These mark food that is guaranteed to have been produced with minimal negative impacts on the environment, humans and animals.

- Certified Organic—food made according to certain production standards. They are grown without the use of conventional pesticides and artificial fertilizers, free from contamination by human or industrial waste, and processed without ionizing radiation or food additives. www.ams.usda.gov
- Food Alliance Certified—certifies farms for sustainable practices and fair working conditions. www.foodalliance.org
- Marine Stewardship Council—promotes sustainable fisheries, taking into account the long-term yield and marine biodiversity. www.msc.org
- Fair Trade Certified—democratically-organized farmer organizations that receive a guaranteed minimum floor price, do not use harmful agrochemicals, and have safe labor conditions. www.transfairusa.org

In 2007, recycling in the U.S. diverted 85 million tons of material from landfills or combustion.

Farmers' markets provide farmers with 80-90 cents of each dollar spent by consumers, compared to 4 cents in grocery stores.

Recycling at Home

Sustainable Food Choices