

Compost helps prevent plant diseases and pests, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers, and promoting higher yields of agricultural crops.

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## Backyard Composting

Yard trimmings and food scraps make up nearly 1/6 of what the average household throws into the garbage; why not put it to use instead of throwing it away? Home composting is an easy way to turn much of the waste from your yard and kitchen into a rich material that you can use to improve your soil.

### 1. Make or buy a compost bin for your backyard.

- Bins can be built from scrap lumber, old pallets, chicken wire or concrete blocks.

- Bins are available to purchase from The Recycling Zone, Dakota County's recycling facility in

Eagan (651-905-4520); they may also be available from hardware or garden stores.

### 2. Place the compost bin in your yard where it is convenient and accessible to water, with good drainage.

- Make sure to follow city ordinances regarding location, size, etc. To view ordinances for Apple Valley, Burnsville and Eagan, go to [www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/compost](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/compost).

### 3. Add your kitchen scraps and yard waste—the compost pile needs the right ingredients which are an equal mix of nitrogen-rich “greens”, carbon-rich “browns”, water and air.

- “Greens” include: green leaves, raw fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, plant trimmings, and grass clippings.

- “Browns” include: straw, sawdust, twigs, dried grasses, dried weeds and leaves, and shredded

newspaper. AVOID: food wastes with oils, meats or dairy. The odors can attract pests.

### 4. Keep the pile moist (but not soggy) and occasionally aerate the pile by mixing with a shovel or pitchfork to aid in decomposition and to control odors.

- The decomposition process will be fairly quick in the summer months as the pile gets hot; in the cold months, it will be slower, but you can continue to add material.

### 5. Use the finished compost—a material that no longer looks like what was originally put in your bin, but is now dark, rich, and full of nutrients.

- Compost can be added to the soil in your yard, to potted plants, or used as mulch for landscaping—it helps to retain water, provides nutrients and prevents erosion.

→ Can't Backyard Compost? Bring yard waste to facilities below or call your garbage hauler for more info. (NO food waste accepted).

**Gertens** · 651-209-3511  
805 Yankee Doodle Road  
Eagan, MN

**The Mulch Store** · 952-736-1915  
1030 West Cliff Rd.  
Burnsville, MN

**The Mulch Store** · 651-423-4401  
16454 Blaine Ave.  
Empire, MN

For a list of garbage haulers go to:  
[www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/haulers](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org/haulers)

## The Recycling Zone

3365 S. Highway 149  
Eagan, MN  
651-905-4520  
[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) –  
Search: *The Recycling Zone*



Drop-off Hours:	Recycling Area	Household Chemicals Area
Wednesday:	9 a.m. – 8 p.m.	3 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday:	noon – 8 p.m.	noon – 5 p.m.
Friday:	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	CLOSED
Saturday:	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### SERVICES OFFERED AT THE RECYCLING ZONE

#### Recycling

Bring in items like glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, paper, cans, cardboard, plastic bags, scrap metal and home sharps (needles, syringes, lancets) to be recycled.

#### Household Chemicals Area

Items like paint, cleaners, chemicals, batteries, oil, gasoline, fluorescent bulbs, etc. are accepted from households ONLY. Driver's license required.

Businesses with hazardous waste should contact Dakota County at 952-891-7020 for more information.

#### Electronics Collection

Items such as computers, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, etc. are accepted from households ONLY. Business electronics are collected separately. Contact The Recycling Zone for fees and more information.

#### Product Reuse Area

Usable household chemicals and paint are free for the taking.

#### Compost Bin Sales

Backyard compost bins are available for a fee. They fit in any car.

#### Aluminum Can Redemption

Bring in your aluminum cans and The Recycling Zone will pay you for them. Call for redemption prices.

#### Lead Sinker Exchange

Exchange your lead tackle for a free sample of a non-lead alternative.

## ENVIRONMENTAL



## GUIDE

### What is Dakota Valley Recycling?

We are city staff that form an efficient and cost effective partnership

for the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville and Eagan. We are a resource for residents and businesses, providing information on recycling, waste disposal, composting and sustainability.

Visit our website at [www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org).

Find us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/DVRecycling](http://www.twitter.com/DVRecycling)

In Apple Valley or Burnsville call 952.895.4559.

In Eagan call 651.675.5011.

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Did you know that The Recycling Zone accepts lawn mowers, bicycles and used cooking oil for recycling?

# Buy Recycled

# Electronics and Appliances Recycling

If every household in the U.S. replaced one package of virgin fiber napkins (250 count) with 100% recycled ones, we could save 1 million trees.

In one year, over 112 million lbs. of valuable materials (steel, plastic, precious metals...) were recycled or reused from disposed electronics.

## Buy Recycled—Close the Loop!

Recycling is important—it matters more than you think! But what about AFTER we put our recyclables out to be collected; what is the next step as consumers?

Buying products made from recycled materials, or “closing the loop”, is an integral step in supporting recycling programs and resource conservation. Once recyclable materials are collected and processed, they are sent to a buyer, or an end-market that processes them into new products.

When you buy a product with recycled content, you are:

- Creating a demand for these items
- Ensuring that your recyclables collected always have an end market
- Conserving natural resources by decreasing the use of virgin materials for manufacturing (i.e. trees for paper, oil for plastics, etc.)

## Tips for buying recycled products.

### Read labels and be informed

Take a few seconds to look at the product to see if it or the packaging contains recycled content. Look for the products and packaging with the highest percentage of recycled content, and those that can be reused or recycled after use to reduce your waste in the first place.

### Is the product “recyclable”?

The term recyclable refers to products that can be used again in the manufacture of new products rather than being thrown away as garbage. Although many items are marked as recyclable, these claims are not always true. The ability to recycle a material often depends on location; check with your local recycling coordinator (Dakota Valley Recycling for the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville and Eagan).

### “Post-consumer” vs. “Pre-consumer”—What to look for:

Post-consumer waste (PCW) is material that has been used and discarded by consumers, collected through recycling efforts and sold to manufacturers to be recycled into new products.

Pre-consumer refers to by-products, like trimmings or extras, generated in the production stages of manufacturing that have not reached consumers. They are put back into the system to be reused or “recycled” into new products instead of being thrown away.

Visit the Natural Resources Defense Council at [www.nrdc.org/land/forests/grass](http://www.nrdc.org/land/forests/grass) for a “Shopper’s Guide to Home Tissue Products”—a list of products and their recycled content.



## Recycling your Electronics and Appliances

Did you know that most TVs and computers contain 2 to 8 pounds of toxic lead? Many electronics and appliances contain other hazardous materials like mercury, cadmium, Freon and oils. If any of these contaminants get into our rivers, streams or lakes, they can harm our health and damage the environment. By law Minnesota requires most electronic products, as well as all major appliances, to be recycled at the end of their life—it is illegal to put them in the garbage.

Electronics that must be recycled include: televisions, computers (central processing units, monitors, laptops), computer keyboards, speakers, printers, VCRs and DVD players, and fax machines. Check with your local recycler for information on other electronic items.

Major appliances include items such as: air conditioners, clothes washers and dryers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, freezers, furnaces, garbage disposals, heat pumps, microwave ovens, ovens, refrigerators, stoves/ranges, trash compactors, and water heaters.

The following businesses in Dakota County accept appliances and/or electronics from residents to be recycled. Call for fees and items accepted.

**The Recycling Zone** · 651-905-4520 · (electronics only)  
[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) -- Search *Recycling Zone*  
Eagan, MN

**Advanced Recyclers, Inc.** · 651-454-9215 · (appliances and electronics)  
[www.advancedrecyclers.com](http://www.advancedrecyclers.com)  
Inver Grove Heights, MN

**Certified Recycling** · 952-894-1448 · (appliances and electronics)  
[www.certifiedappliance.com](http://www.certifiedappliance.com)  
Burnsville, MN


**Burnsville Sanitary Landfill** · 952-890-3248 · (appliances and electronics)  
[www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com)  
Burnsville, MN

**Materials Processing Corporation** · 651-681-8099 · (electronics only)  
[www.materialsprocessing.com](http://www.materialsprocessing.com)  
Mendota Heights, MN

**Plaza TV and Appliance, Inc.** · 651-457-1196 · (appliances and some electronics)  
West St. Paul, MN

## What Can I Recycle At Home?

These guidelines apply to residents in Dakota County.

Plastic	Glass	Metal	Paper
<p><b>YES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bottles and jugs</li> <li>• Water, soda and juice bottles</li> <li>• Milk and juice jugs</li> <li>• Ketchup and salad dressing bottles</li> <li>• Dishwashing and detergent bottles</li> <li>• Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles</li> </ul> <p><b>NO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Margarine, cottage cheese, cream cheese and other tubs</li> <li>• Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups</li> <li>• Microwaveable food trays</li> <li>• Produce, deli and take out containers</li> <li>• Plastic wrap and bags*</li> <li>• Toys</li> <li>• Containers that held hazardous automotive and yard products, such as motor oil and pesticides</li> </ul> <p><small>* Plastic shopping bags are recyclable at many local grocery stores and at the Recycling Zone in Eagan.</small></p>	<p><b>YES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glass food and beverage bottles and jars</li> </ul> <p><b>NO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drinking glasses, mugs, dishes, cookware, pottery and vases</li> <li>• Window and mirror glass</li> <li>• Containers that held hazardous products, such as nail polish and hobby paints</li> </ul> <p><b>The energy it takes to recycle is nothing compared to the energy it saves.</b></p>  <p>Recycling information provided by: <a href="http://RethinkRecycling.com">RethinkRecycling.com</a></p>	<p><b>YES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metal food and beverage cans</li> </ul> <p><b>NO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paint cans</li> <li>• Aerosol cans</li> <li>• Containers that held hazardous products, such as paint thinner and automotive fluids</li> </ul> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>YES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mail, office and school papers</li> <li>• Magazines and catalogs</li> <li>• Newspapers and inserts</li> <li>• Phone books</li> <li>• Shredded paper in closed paper bags</li> <li>• Cardboard boxes</li> <li>• Boxes from toothpaste, medications and other toiletries</li> <li>• Boxes from cereal, crackers, pasta and other dry foods</li> <li>• Rolls form paper towel and toilet paper</li> </ul> <p><b>NO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pizza boxes, egg cartons or boxes soiled with food</li> <li>• Boxes from refrigerated or frozen foods</li> <li>• Paper towels, napkins, cups and plates</li> <li>• Gift wrap</li> </ul>



## Top Energy Actions

With so many options to reduce your energy use, which actions are best for you and your family? The average Minnesota family spends over \$4,000 on energy (includes natural gas, electricity and gasoline) and produces over 50,000 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per year. To help visualize the savings, one pound of carbon dioxide would fill a balloon about two and a half feet in diameter—imagine a household producing 50,000 of these balloons in a year! The actions listed below provide impressive savings in dollars and energy.

### Families with children can focus on everyday convenient actions that teach kids to conserve energy. Kids can take action, too!

Be mindful of your heat and central air. Turning your furnace thermostat down just two degrees in the winter saves \$53 per year and prevents 569 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>, and you won't even notice the change.

Unplug electronics and appliances while not in use, like cell phone chargers, video game consoles, and microwaves. Anything with a clock, remote or LED light is using energy all the time, even if it's turned off.

Power strips are a quick fix. Multiple components can be plugged into one device, so you can turn them all off with one switch and save \$14 per year.

### Homeowners can often save the most energy by focusing on the major appliances and structural components of their home.

Replace your 20- (or more) year old furnace with a highly efficient (94%) model with a variable speed blower. You can save \$204 per year and avoid 2,192 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Make sure your attic is up to code with 14" of settled insulation. Adequate attic insulation will help you avoid ice dams, save \$86 a year and avoid 934 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Replace your 15-year old refrigerator with a modern, more efficient model. This can save \$54 per year and prevent 1,095 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Renters can still save a lot of energy by taking these low-cost measures.

Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs—they use 75% less electricity and last 7-10 times longer than traditional incandescent. Each bulb can save you up to \$40 over its lifetime, and you can take them with you if you move! Look for Energy Star certified bulbs.

Recycle! Recycling really does make a difference. Recycling just the basics at home—paper, cans and bottles—can reduce your carbon footprint by 10%.

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A piece of paper can be recycled seven to fifteen times before the fibers get too short for making paper.

Join the MN Energy Challenge! Log on to [www.MNEnergyChallenge.org](http://www.MNEnergyChallenge.org) for more energy saving tips and to how to take action!

# Recycling at Home

# Save Energy