



SUMMER
RECYCLING
EVENT (BACK
PAGE)

RAW

REDUCE ANOKA'S WASTE
SUMMER 2024

Wow – The Tonnage is Piling Up!

Thank you, residents, for your recycling efforts at the spring recycling event in April. Here is a glimpse of what you dropped off for recycling:

- 4.45 tons mattresses
- 3.9 tons electronics
- 2.8 tons appliances
- 1.2 tons clothing
- 2 tons paper shredding
- 1.5 tons tires

All of this weight is applied toward the city's 2024 tonnage goal of 1778 tons.

Mark your calendar – the fall recycling event is scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2024. Watch for upcoming information. Thank you for recycling!



COULD YOUR RECYCLING BE A FIRE HAZARD?

Excited about your new smartphone purchase, you pull it out of the case and start setting up your new device. Your old phone – which has just been replaced by the new model – is ready to be discarded.

It is an electronic and you are pretty certain electronics shouldn't go to the landfill. You may have heard parts can be recycled, there are precious metals in them after all. But wait! Did you know that, if you throw your old phone in your recycling bin (or trash) at home, you can create a serious fire hazard? Batteries, when faulty or crushed, can spark or explode.

In recent years, there has been a spike in fires erupting at recycling facilities due to lithium-ion batteries — like the battery contained in cell phones and other electronics or rechargeable batteries. In fact, recent research shows that nearly 40% of waste and recycling facilities have had fires annually due to unsuccessful attempts to recycle batteries and small electronics in curbside recycling.

In addition to fires breaking out at recycling facilities, waste and recycling collection trucks have also gone up in flames from lithium-ion batteries. It goes without saying that these fires are an extreme safety hazard for both drivers and the people working in recycling facilities, as well as the surrounding communities.

Why electronics and batteries are explosive

It is hard to imagine how such a simple act could cause so much harm, but many batteries, whether large or small, are packed with the power of combustion. Contained inside the batteries is a flammable electrolyte, this helps keep your laptop or cell phone charged, but when put under the right (or wrong) conditions, can ignite into flames. It's not just cell phones and tablets or laptops that need special handling. Batteries, including the tiny ones in greeting cards, small electronic toys, and e-cigarettes can spark and explode, causing fires.

Once that battery leaves your curb with the other recyclables, it is often tossed in the back of a truck. This part of the recycling truck not only has hot temperatures, it also compacts inserted materials to fit it all into the truck, putting that battery under pressure. Hot load coming through!

When the load is delivered to the recycling facility, this already volatile situation can get even worse. At the facility, the battery is moved through a series of machines and equipment, causing additional pressure and potential holes to be poked into the battery. Combine these conditions (pressure and poking) with the mix of paper material moving through the facility, and you can see how things can heat up quickly.

Which batteries can be recycled or thrown in the trash?

When it comes to used batteries and small electronics, they don't belong in your recycling or trash. Here's why. Lithium-ion, Nickel cadmium, nickel-metal-hydride, alkaline or rechargeable – there are a lot of battery types out there. And, while some batteries pose an increased risk of sparking or exploding or may include more potentially hazardous contents that can pollute the environment, it's better to be safe when disposing of used batteries and small electronics. Safe disposal may include taking these items to a local hardware or electronics store or the Anoka County Hazardous Household Waste Facility for the safest battery disposal option.

Through special processes, the hazardous contents of batteries can be safely disposed of and batteries such as those found in cars and power lawn equipment can be carefully recycled into new batteries, but only when returned to the proper location.

How to safely dispose of used batteries and small electronics

Batteries and small electronics don't belong in your curbside recycling or trash. Instead, take them to a safe collection site, such as Anoka's spring or fall recycling events or the Coon Rapids Recycling Center.

On your next trip to the hardware, home improvement, electronics or household goods store, check to see if the store offers a battery and small electronics recycling program. These stores often locate special bins to recycle batteries or small electronics near entrances and exits.

Help keep everyone safe, including your community and the environment, by safely disposing of batteries and small electronics.

Source: Recyclingpartnership.org



TIPS TO KEEP FOOD FRESH LONGER

The Waste Reduction & Recycling Board members would like to share some tips to help make your food stay fresh longer!

- Rather than discarding the white ends of scallions, put them in water and watch them grow. If you put them in soil, their flavor gets stronger! You could soon have a lifetime supply of scallions.
- Keep ginger in the freezer.
- Put mushrooms in a paper bag in the refrigerator or in any cool, dry spot.
- Place herbs in an ice plate with olive oil and place it in the freezer.
- Once you open your bag of lettuce, keep a paper towel in the bag to keep it fresh.
- After opening and blending your natural peanut butter, store the container upside down. That way, the oil stays at the bottom of the jar.
- Storing potatoes with apples will prevent them from sprouting because of the ethylene gas produced by the fruit. Apples emit the most ethylene, so they are best for forestalling sprouting.
- Roast and freeze nuts to keep them crunchy.
- Wrap stems of celery, broccoli, and lettuce in aluminum foil and store them in the refrigerator. This will keep them fresh for about a month so you can enjoy your delicious veggies longer.

RECYCLE SOCIAL DISTRICT CUPS

You may have seen the Anoka Social District cups throughout the district this summer, or you may have received one if you ordered an adult beverage to sip and stroll with in the district. These specially-marked plastic cups are recyclable. We encourage everyone to utilize the recycling containers that are placed next to garbage containers within the district and place these plastic cups in the containers for proper recycling. Thank you and enjoy the Anoka Social District.



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY



Anoka's Waste Reduction & Recycling Board (WRRB) invites you to utilize its Little Free Library named We Read & Reuse Books (WRRB) located just behind Anoka City Hall. Enjoy a good read along with a pretty view of the Rum River. As you walk the Rum River trail, just grab a book (add a book if you'd like), and have a seat on the nearby bench for a relaxing afternoon in Anoka. The library is made of all reused materials.

FAST FASHION'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Merriam-Webster defines 'fast fashion' as "an approach to the design, creation, and marketing of clothing fashions that emphasizes making fashion trends quickly and cheaply available to consumers."

According to an article on Earth.org, fast fashion effects global carbon emissions, dries up water sources, and pollutes rivers and streams, while 85% of all textiles end up in landfills each year.



In this day, consumers are buying more clothes and keeping them about half as long. So, how can we combat the waste and harm that fast fashion brings? We can become more sustainable by:

- Shopping local at secondhand/thrift stores
- Organizing or attending a clothing swap
- Shopping garage sales
- Donating clothing to non-profit organizations
- Reusing more and buying less

Remember less is always more.

REUSE EVENT A SUCCESS

Just under 3 tons of materials were reused through the Reuse Event held in May. Thank you to those that donated and to those that are reusing the materials.

Summer Recycling Drop-Off Event

We have partnered with Recycle Technologies, Inc. to offer a summer recycling event for city of Anoka residents. Here are the details:

Location: Recycle Technologies (formerly Green Lights Recycling)
10040 Davenport St. NE, Blaine

Directions: From Hwy. 65 – North on Hwy. 65/Central Ave. NE
Turn right on 99th Ave. N. Enter off 99th Ave. N.

Date: Saturday, July 27, 2024

Hours: 9 a.m. – Noon

The coupon below will allow you to recycle ONE appliance, electronic, mattress or box spring for FREE! Must present and surrender coupon at time of drop-off. City of Anoka residency identification required.

Questions: 763-785-0456 (Recycle Technologies)
763-576-2725 (City of Anoka – Recycling Dept.)

ANOKA
REAL. CLASSIC.

**RECYCLE
1 for FREE**
(appliance, electronic, mattress
or box spring)

Valid only July 27, 2024 | 9 a.m. - Noon
at Recycle Technologies

Anoka City Residency ID Required. Must present and
surrender coupon at time of drop-off.



Fees—Accepted Materials (price per each – cash or check payable to Recycle Technologies)

Appliances

- \$6 – small/medium – stereo, radio, toaster, VCR, curling iron, coffee maker, etc.
- \$12 – major – refrigerators, stoves, washer, dryer, vacuum cleaner
- \$15 – water heater & water softener (empty of water and salt)
- \$23 – dehumidifier; \$15 – humidifier or microwave
- \$25 – water heater & water softener (not empty of water and salt)
- \$30 – air conditioners; window a/c, \$20

Electronics

- \$10 – \$35—small to large printer/copier
- \$20 – TV and monitor up to 17”
- \$30 – TV and monitor 18” to 31”
- \$55 – TV and monitor 32” and over
- \$85 – console TV and rear projection TV
- \$20 (additional) – broken TV and CRT
- \$150 – organ/piano

Mattresses & Box Springs

- \$20 – crib, twin, full, and queen
- \$25 – king, pillow top, and extra thick

Tires

- \$7 – car (with rim add \$2.25/tire)
- \$9 – SUV/truck (with rim add \$2.25/tire)

Other

- \$1.75/lb. – batteries (alkaline, nickel, cadmium, lithium ion, nickel metal hydride)
- \$6.75/lb. – batteries (lithium)
- \$.50 – \$.75 (based on size) fluorescent bulbs (do not tape together)
- \$5 – hard drives to be shredded
- \$25 – treadmill; standard; \$40 – electric

Free – Accepted Materials

- Computer tower, laptop, cell phone, tablet without hard drive
- Cord, cable, wire, keyboard, and mouse
- Holiday string lights (no ropes)
- Scrap metal (must be clean, no fluids, no non-metal parts)
- Sealed lead acid batteries



Residential Recycling Questions?

ACE Solid Waste, Inc. 763-427-3110

- Curbside recycling information
- Missed service
- Service schedule
- Additional recycling container (no charge)

City Recycling Manager 763-576-2725
General residential recycling information

ACE
SOLID WASTE, INC.
Trusted. Local. Professional.

 Printed on Recycled Paper

Publication and events funded by the Anoka County
Board of Commissioners & State SCORE funds
(Select Committee on Recycling
and the Environment).

anokaminnesota.com



WASTE REDUCTION
— & RECYCLING BOARD —

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