

# THE CLEAN CITY CHRONICLE

A quarterly newsletter from the City of Minneapolis  
Public Works Department - Solid Waste and Recycling Division



## Thank you Minneapolis!

Solid Waste & Recycling would like to thank all Minneapolis residents for embracing the one-sort recycling program and increasing collected recycling by over 50% compared to the old multi-sort program! Keep up the good work!

We look forward to the continued increase in recycling and urge you to continue to find more items to recycle!

See page 5 of this newsletter for helpful ways to reduce waste and how to manage extra recycling this holiday season.



## Director's Corner: Dave Herberholz

Solid Waste and Recycling (SW&R) is pleased to re-activate a quarterly newsletter, appropriately titled "The Clean City Chronicle", to share information and publicize activities in SW&R. Leaves are falling and snow is coming, and this issue will provide information on how to properly handle your solid waste as we move into the Fall/Winter Season.

The mission of the Division is to protect the health and safety of Minneapolis residents by providing solid waste management services that result in a clean and livable city. This is accomplished in SW&R through *Teamwork* – which is defined as a "Cooperative effort by the members of a group or team to achieve a common goal". Like the seasons, change is inevitable. New initiatives and challenges arise in SW&R and dedicated employees team up to provide solutions.

***"Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without."*** -New England proverb

## On the Inside:

Page 2:

- Special Recognition
- New Faces
- Congratulations Council Member Colvin Roy

Page 3:

- Organics Study
- Recycle Your Holidays
- Results Minneapolis

Page 4: Clean City

- Litter Containers
- Graffiti—A Winter How To
- Cart Cleaning

Page 5: Waste Less this Holiday Season

- Gift Ideas
- Rethink Wrapping Paper
- Fix-It Clinic Information
- Managing Extra Recycling over the Holidays

Page 6:

- End of Yard Waste Season
- Snow Shoveling Reminder
- Holiday Collection Reminder
- Cardboard Cans now Accepted!
- Don't Miss an Issue!



## *Special Recognition*

Congratulations to Judy Brown, Program Assistant and a valued member of our leadership team for the past 14 years, on her

retirement after 41 years of service for the City. Judy will be deeply missed and we wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life.



## *New faces*

SW&R is happy to recognize the following new team members in SWR:

- Michelle Howard  
Clean City Coordinator
- Sheldon Swenson  
General Foreman
- Kellie Kish  
Recycling Coordinator
- Ida Bros  
Program Assistant
- Charles Farley  
Equipment Service Worker

We look forward to the benefits each new employee will bring to the team.

## **Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy wins 2013 RAM Public Service Award!**



**Above:** Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy and Mayor R.T. Rybak deliver some of the first one-sort recycling carts to residents' homes in November 2012.

Solid Waste & Recycling would like to congratulate Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy for winning the 2013 Public Service Award from the Recycling Association of Minnesota.

Council Member Colvin Roy has served on Minneapolis City Council for 16 years and has been the Chair of the Transportation & Public Works Committee since 2002.

Recently, her support has led to both the one-sort recycling program, Minneapolis' mattress recycling program, and the execution of the organics collection study.

Thank you Council Member Colvin Roy for a job well done!

## **Fun Fact!**

From administration and support staff to mechanics, City and contracted collection crews, 190 people are responsible for all of the services provided by the Solid Waste & Recycling Division.



## Organics Study Released

Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling began its first organics collection pilot in 2008. Since then, two additional pilot areas have been established.

A study of collection methods, associated costs and environmental impacts of a city-wide organics program was conducted by a consultant in 2013. The study was presented to the Transportation & Public Works Committee on October 8, 2013.

The report signifies that city-wide organics will happen once several barriers are overcome and it is feasible for a roll-out to be completed.

The report is available on SW&R's [Studies and Reports webpage](#). Resident feedback on the study and their preferred collection method is appreciated.

Please direct any questions or comments on the report or preferred collection method to [Kellie.Kish@MinneapolisMN.gov](mailto:Kellie.Kish@MinneapolisMN.gov).



The Recycling Association of Minnesota launches their Recycle Your Holidays™ program each year on America Recycles Day. The Recycle Your Holidays™ program collects unwanted holiday lights for recycling from November 15th through the end of January each year.

With over 500 drop-off locations state-wide, there's a place conveniently located for you to drop-off those unwanted working or non-working lights.

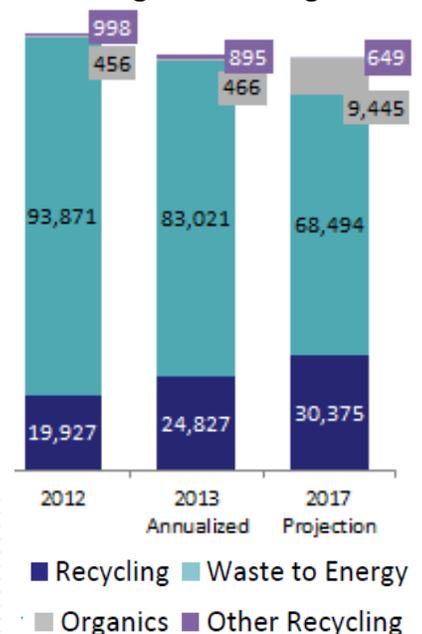


The Recycle Your Holidays™ program employs adults with disabilities to process the lights for recycling. Visit [RecycleMinnesota.org](http://RecycleMinnesota.org) to find a drop-off location near you!



The October 15th session of Results Minneapolis overviews the current status of solid waste and recycling collected and reiterates why the City moved toward a one-sort recycling program. The study also evaluates the first year of the mattress recycling program and provides an update on metal items collected. The graph on the right shows tonnage from 2012, annualized tonnage for 2013 and a 2017 target. The [report](#) details that overall the one-sort program has resulted in an average 50% increase in weight of materials collected through August 2013. The 2017 projection assumes a city-wide organics collection program will be in place. See the [full report](#) for more details on how we're doing.

Garbage, Recycling and Organics Tonnage



SW&R was just notified that our Mattress Recycling Program was selected for a 2013 Local Government Innovation Award. Watch for details in our Spring Newsletter!

## Why is there a litter container there, but not here?



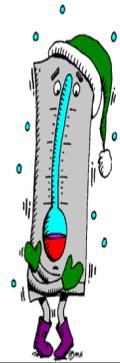
Litter containers can be placed wherever they may be needed. The question is who will empty it when it gets full, or pay for the City to provide this service. The City of Minneapolis has concrete and plastic litter containers placed throughout the city. The Division of Solid Waste and Recycling and the Division of Traffic and Parking Services partner to provide and pay for regular service of containers located at Bus Stops within Commercial Corridors and at all bus shelters city-wide. Litter containers within [Special Service Districts \(SSD\)](#) are placed at the direction of the SSD board; the costs to service these containers are paid for by members of the District. All other litter containers are adopted. Adopters choose where the container is needed and select whether to provide service themselves, at no charge - bags and gloves provided - or pay the City for pickup. Know of a bus shelter without a litter container? Let us know!

**Interested in reducing litter in another location?** Consider adopting a litter container. Visit our website [www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/cleancity](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/cleancity) or contact the Clean City Coordinator for details at 612-673-2789.



## Graffiti Doesn't Stop When it's Cold

Property owners are generally required to remove graffiti within 7 days; however, the cold weather can affect the removal process. Under a deadline? Weather not cooperating? Consider calling our office to request an extension by dialing 612-673-2090. Even though the weather is cold, it is still important to report the graffiti as soon as you see it. City crews and contractors have experience with removal of graffiti on many surface types and can remove most graffiti during the temperatures and conditions that the winter season brings.



### General Abatement Guidelines:

Acrylic Paint	32 Degrees or warmer
Enamel Paint	22 degrees or warmer
Latex Paint	50 Degrees or warmer *
<a href="#">Fire Station Solvent</a>	17 degrees or warmer
Other Caustic Solvents	Any Temperature
Pressure Washer	32 Degrees or warmer due to icing
Sand Blasting	Any Temperature, surface type dependent

\* Some paint providers sell an additive that allows for painting in temperatures of 32 degrees or warmer. For more information and resources visit our website: [www.minneapolismn.gov/graffiti](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/graffiti)

## Keep Your Carts Clean, Inside & Out

A smelly cart is more likely to attract unwanted animals and flies. Strong odors appeal to squirrels and raccoons; that will chew through the plastic sides or lid damaging the cart. Put a little dish soap in the cart, put the cart on its side, turn on the hose, and spray out the dirt. Adding baking soda or vinegar to the soapy solution will greatly cut down on smells. Keep it clean by bagging all garbage and keeping the lid tightly closed. Graffiti damaged carts can invite more graffiti and its generally simple to remove. Supplies to keep your carts graffiti-free are available, at no charge, by calling 612-673-2789.



**Unable to remove the graffiti yourself?** Call Minneapolis 311 to make a report and we'll abate it for you.

## WASTE LESS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:



Consider giving your loved one a more meaningful, less costly gift this holiday season. Give your significant other, your children, friends, or other family members coupons for different activities or favors. Customize your coupons for the recipient. Some examples include:

### Coupons to give to an Adult:

- Baby-sitting
- Movie night with a movie of his/her choice
- Breakfast in bed
- A back or foot massage
- Run errands for the month
- Clean the house

### Coupons to give to a Child:

- Take a trip to the zoo, aquarium, park, movies, etc.
- A sleepover with movies and popcorn
- Reading or story time
- Make a fort
- One-on-one time with Mom, Dad, Grandma or Grandpa

### Coupons for a Child to give an Adult:

- Feed the animals for a week/month
- Give the dog a bath
- Help with chores around the house
- Watch younger sibling(s)
- Hugs and kisses
- Help rake leaves or shovel snow
- For adult to teach child to make a meal

### Rethink Wrapping Paper:

Instead of buying expensive, potentially non-recyclable wrapping paper, get creative with your gift wrapping this year.



Use items you have that are unique to the person the gift is for. For example, wrap a child's present in the newspaper comic pages, or wrap an adult's gift in an old map. Have kids wrap presents in a brown paper grocery bag and decorate the outside.

Other items that make for great unique wrapping paper include:

- Old calendars or posters
- Sheet music

**Note:** Be sure to recycle all the paper after the presents are opened!

### Frustrated with your broken electronics? Hoping for an upgrade this holiday season?



### See if Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic experts can help you fix it first!

Saturday, December 14th, 2013 (12p.m.— 4p.m.)  
St. Louis Park Rec Center  
3700 Monterey Drive, St. Louis Park

Saturday, January 11th, 2014 (12p.m.— 4p.m.)  
The Bakken Museum  
3537 Zenith Ave S, Minneapolis

For future Fix-It Clinic dates, visit Hennepin County's [Fix-It Clinic webpage](#).

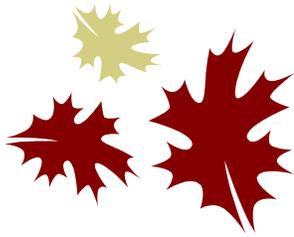
**Extra Recycling?** If you have extra recycling this holiday season that won't fit in your one-sort recycling cart, please set it out in a cardboard box or in paper grocery bags placed next to your cart on your recycling day. Please remember that **plastic bags are NOT accepted for recycling**. Recyclable gift wrapping paper (that without a lot of glitter or reflective areas) should be placed inside your recycling cart, in a cardboard box or inside paper bags for it to be picked up.

If you consistently have extra recycling, call Solid Waste & Recycling and ask for another cart!

**Reminder:** Do NOT place extra recycling out in your old blue or green multi-sort recycling bin.

If you do, City crews will take the bin and it will not be returned.





## End of Yard Waste Season

Solid Waste & Recycling has extended the yard waste season through the week of November 25th, 2013. If you have yard waste following the City's last collection, you will need to bring it to a yard waste facility or store it until next Spring. Call Solid Waste & Recycling at (612) 673-2917 and our Customer Service staff will assist you in finding a place to bring your yard waste.

## Holiday Collection Reminder!

The following holidays will affect your solid waste and recycling collection:

**Thanksgiving**

**Christmas**

**New Years**

If your garbage day falls on, or follows one of the holidays listed above, your garbage and recycling will be picked up one day later than usual.

Sign up to receive Recycling Reminders and Holiday Collection Reminders by clicking [Find My Garbage Day](#) or [Find My Recycling Day](#) on under the Garbage or Recycling section of Solid Waste & Recycling website. Enter in your address and click *Subscribe to email updates and reminders*.

The day before your scheduled recycling collection, you will receive an email reminding you to set out your recycling the following day. You will also receive email notification on holiday weeks letting you know if collection will be delayed.



## Snow Shoveling Reminder

To effectively service carts this winter, please remember to shovel around your garbage and recycling carts so they are

easily accessible by City crews. It is City ordinance and if you fail to shovel and it has not snowed within 48 hours of your collection, City crews will shovel the cart(s) out for you and a \$30 per cart fee will be added to your City utility bill.

Garbage collection crews empty an average of 800 to 900 carts per two-man crew. That's an average of 17 tons collected by two people each day! Please give them a break by shoveling out your carts and reporting damaged wheels or lids promptly for repair. Broken wheels make the cart more difficult to move, especially when full. Damaged lids are not as effective in keeping water out, causing the cart to quickly become overweight.

## Cardboard Cans are Now Recyclable!



Cardboard cans are now accepted in the one-sort recycling program. Cardboard cans have a steel bottom, boxboard sides, and typically a plastic lid. Examples include: chips, nuts and other snacks, frozen juice, powdered baby formula, drink mixes, cleaning products, and refrigerated dough.

**Don't Miss an Issue!** To sign up to receive email quarterly issues of The Clean City Chronicle, please visit our [Newsletter webpage](#) under the About Us section on our website. Send suggestions for newsletter topics or questions you'd like answered to Kellie at [Kellie.Kish@MinneapolisMN.gov](mailto:Kellie.Kish@MinneapolisMN.gov).