

Recycling calendars make it easy for you to help the environment

Written by

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City of Minneapolis recycling customers should watch their mailboxes in late February for the City's 2009 recycling calendar. The calendar will tell you what you can and can't recycle through the City's Solid Waste and Recycling service, and it will show all the dates in 2009 when you should put out your recycling. Recycling saves natural resources, energy and money, and it's easy to recycle in Minneapolis.

More than 90 percent of the households in Minneapolis participate in the City's recycling program. Fourteen recycling trucks pick up recycling from an average of 400 Minneapolis households per route per day. Each truck picks up an average of 3 to 4 tons of recyclables each day. Together, we set out more than 23,000 tons of cans, glass, newspaper, etc., to be collected and recycled into new products every year.

You can even recycle your electronics in Minneapolis. In fact, Minneapolis is the only city in the U.S. that will recycle electronics that are set out by your cart on recycling day. So if you are getting rid of your TV, just set it next to the garbage cart on your recycling day with a sign on it that says "for solid waste." A crew will come back for it the next business day.

Take your household beyond recycling by sharing, reusing and planning ahead. When you purchase a few items, just say "no thanks" to a bag or bring your own reusable bag. Bring a mug to work for your coffee or tea, a simple act that could save pounds and pounds of paper, plastic foam and plastic waste over the course of a job. Rent, borrow or share things that you use infrequently. These items could include anything from party decorations to audiovisual equipment, chain saws, rug cleaners or garden tillers. Also consider repairing or maintaining items you already have – particularly large appliances and electronic equipment – instead of throwing them away and buying new. Large items take up a lot of space if sent to a landfill, and you can save a lot of money by using the one you already have.

For more information about recycling in Minneapolis, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/recycling . To learn more about what you can do to reduce, reuse and recycle, use the above link and click on "Be a Zero Hero."