



Green Alternatives

Fall 2011

an environmental newsletter for City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County employees

IN THIS ISSUE

- SOLAR POWER
- GOING GREEN TODAY
- GREEN RAMSEY
- REGIONAL EMMY AWARD
- ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS
- GET LESS TODAY

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Master contracts for City and County staff

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guide

Buying Green Newsletter

QUESTIONS?

Contact Karen Reilly
651.266.1186
karen.reilly@co.ramsey.mn.us

Solar Power Shines on Saint Paul

The City of Saint Paul is leading the way in sustainability as the Saint Paul RiverCentre (SPRC) ramp already features energy-efficient, money-saving lighting and is Electric Vehicle (EV) ready offering two charging stations. This past month, on October 17th, the City and its many partners unveiled another large 82 kilowatt (kWh) solar photovoltaic installation project on the SPRC parking ramp.

With the help of both federal and state grants, the SPRC parking ramp features 348 American made solar photovoltaic panels that will generate 100,000 kWh of energy annually. That is enough energy to power 9 homes for a year. This solar project is one of seven in Saint Paul, which utilizes American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant dollars.

Other notable Federal Stimulus projects include installation of 14 electric vehicle charging stations throughout the community, numerous municipal facilities lighting retrofits, as well as the Midwest's largest solar thermal installation on the roof of Saint Paul RiverCentre, which was completed earlier this year by District Energy Saint Paul. SPRC parking ramp has also converted 1,087 high pressure sodium lights on its floors to new energy-efficient fluorescent lamps – garnering an annual savings of \$50,000.



Going Green Today e-newsletter

We strive to create a healthy, safe environment for all people to live, work and play. Find out what Ramsey County is doing to go green inside and out! Look for this e-newsletter in your inbox every other month. Click on the red envelope to subscribe to Going Green Today.

Join the Conversation!

Ramsey County Environmental Health is now on Facebook and Twitter. Green Ramsey offers great information about ways residents and businesses alike can be green. We want to improve, protect and promote the health, environment and well-being of people in our community. Learn about topics such as recycling, environmental toxins, composting, energy conservation, sustainability and more. The goal is to share information through a new medium while also engaging in conversations with followers. Do YOU want to learn more ways to go green and protect the planet? Follow Green Ramsey at www.facebook.com/greenramsey and <http://twitter.com/GreenRamsey>.



Recycling video wins Regional Emmy® Award

A video guide to school recycling initiated and funded by Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health, produced by the City of Roseville, filmed and edited by CTV North Suburbs, and starring students and staff at Roseville's Parkview Center School, has won a 2011 Upper Midwest Regional Emmy® Award.

"Boxes, Bottles and Banana Peels: A Guide to School Recycling," recently won first place in the "Education/Schools – Program/Special/Series" category of the Regional Emmy Award

competition of The Upper Midwest Chapter of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The video offers a step-by-step guide for schools considering establishing or improving a program for recycling paper, bottles cans and food leftovers. "Boxes, Bottles and Banana Peels" highlights the success of Parkview Center's "Green Team" and how it has reduced costs by increasing the amount it recycles. The video stars Parkview Center students and staff who help explain the nuts and bolts of their recycling program and how they separate and collect traditional recyclables such as boxes and bottles, as well as food leftovers that are recycled by a local livestock farmer.

The video was developed as a follow-up to a printed school recycling guide developed by Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health's Environmental Health Section. "Our goal was to produce an informative and entertaining video to engage staff and students who are considering creating their own recycling programs," said Kaia Johnson Kemper, a Health Educator who produced the video for Ramsey County. Added Rina McManus, Director of Saint Paul

– Ramsey County Public Health: "This project is a great example of government working collaboratively to help each other save money, and achieve our county's environmental goals," she said.

"A video that inspires students to recycle at school can also motivate them to recycle more at home. So a joint project such as this benefits everyone," said Tim Pratt, Recycling Coordinator for the City of Roseville.

"Our students loved being a part of making this video - they felt like stars!" said Jacob Von De Linde, Dean of Student at Parkview Center School. Von De Linde said the video was intended to sustain the recycling programs and expand it to other sites. "We watch it multiple times during the school year and our teachers appreciate having it to review our recycling practices with their students. It was a great partnership for our school," he said.

Laura Larsen, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds for the Roseville Area Schools, said the district's recycling program makes sense for multiple reasons. "The recycling program not only teaches good stewardship, but paid for itself quickly out of reduced trash disposal fees," she said.

In addition to the Regional Emmy®, the video has won awards from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) and the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (MAGC). "Boxes, Bottles and Banana Peels: A Guide to School Recycling," can be viewed online on Ramsey County's YouTube channel.

More information about school recycling programs is also available online or by calling 651.266.1199.

Consider this!

One gallon of gas can contaminate 750,000 gallons of drinking water, making it undrinkable.

Out of a barrel of crude oil, you can get 2.5 quarts of virgin motor oil, while it takes only a gallon of used motor oil to get the same amount of high quality motor oil.

Driving 75 mph uses up to 20% more gasoline than driving 55 mph to go the same distance.

If each commuter car carried just one more person (for a day), we'd save 600,000 gallons of gasoline and prevent 12 million pounds of carbon dioxide from polluting the atmosphere.

In the U.S., every one mile per gallon increase in average fuel efficiency reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 40 billion pounds per year, the rough equivalent of closing six coal fired power plants.



REDUCE, Reuse, Recycle—in that Order!

Waste reduction is the best method of waste management because it actually prevents the generation of waste, saving natural and financial resources. Have you ever considered that having LESS would actually help you to have MORE? In the Twin Cities metropolitan area, we produce about 6 pounds of waste per person each day. That is enough waste to fill Target Field over 25 times every year!

Think about how much stuff that is! When we reduce the amount of stuff we buy, have, and eventually throw away, we end up with more time, more space, and more money. That means donating, borrowing and sharing, selling, and being smarter about what we buy.

Do what you can to get LESS and have more! Learn more at www.getLEStoday.com!

