



SAFELY DISPOSE OF ELECTRONICS RECYCLE OLD ITEMS FOR FREE

DID YOU KNOW that when you throw certain electronics into the trash, you are actually releasing toxic chemicals into the environment such as lead and mercury that may end up in our rivers and lakes? Dispose of old electronics through Hennepin County's drop-off center.

Hennepin County recycles TVs, audio equipment, computers and telephones, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and thermometers, free of charge at its South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-off Center, 1400 W. 96th St. The facility is open **Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

For more information, visit www.GreenGuardian.com.



A CLEAN MAILBOX STOP RECEIVING UNWANTED CATALOGS AND ADVERTISING

EACH YEAR, more than 19 billion catalogs are mailed to American consumers. Besides being annoying, these unwanted catalogs hurt the environment. It takes 53 million trees to produce the 3.6 million tons of paper used to create 19 billion catalogs. How can this number be reduced? Simply go to catalogchoice.org and opt out of receiving almost any catalog of your choosing. This free service is a great alternative to the Do Not Send list. It's fast, easy and it helps the environment.

CASH IN THE TRASH TOO MUCH PACKAGING EQUALS WASTE

ACCORDING TO the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. produced 12 million tons of plastic packaging in 2006. Almost 90 percent of that plastic was thrown in the garbage. Purchasing items with less packaging reduces waste. It also makes items easier to open.



Tips to buy less trash:

- Drink juice from concentrate. Juice boxes create more waste.
- Purchase canned tuna. Foil packaging is not recyclable.
- Buy large bags of chips and crackers instead of "snack packs."

For information, visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Recycle.

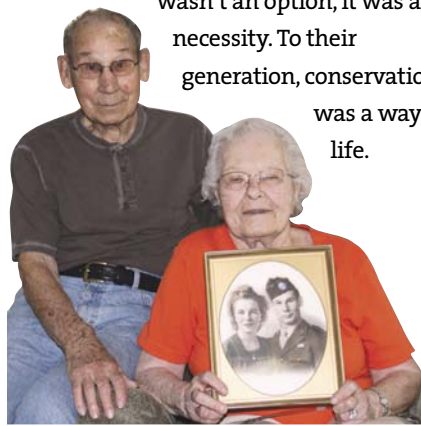
Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...

EARTH ACTION HEROES LONGTIME CONSERVATIONISTS BURT AND AUDREY

DURING THE DEPRESSION and World War II, conserving what little one had was common practice. Recycling was introduced as a way to help the war effort. Tin cans were saved to provide more ammunition for soldiers. Metal, paper and rubber were collected to be reused. Many Americans planted "Victory Gardens" to grow their own food.

Like their neighbors, residents Burt and Audrey Fisher began recycling to help the war effort. They continue to do so today to help the environment.

Burt, who just celebrated his 90th birthday, remembers when recycling wasn't an option, it was a necessity. To their generation, conservation was a way of life.



During the Depression, Burt found work with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 to conserve the nation's natural resources and fight against soil erosion and declining timber resources, while providing jobs for the unemployed of mostly large, urban areas. In joining the CCC, Burt earned a small salary while helping to stabilize eroding fields and mine limestone.

"We wouldn't dream of throwing anything away," Burt said. "It was unheard of to waste anything, especially food."

Indeed, not only did the Fishers practice conserving food, they planted and canned their own produce.

"We canned everything from tomatoes to onions," Audrey said. "Planting and canning our own food saved money and was much healthier."

When Burt returned to Minnesota after being injured in the war, he moved his family to Bloomington. One of the first things they did was plant a garden and install a compost pile, which they still use today. Burt and Audrey also continued to recycle inside their home.



According to Burt, paper products were rarely used and never wasted.

"The only towels and diapers we ever used were cloth," Burt said.

Although much has changed since the 1940s, the Fishers still incorporate these practices into their lives.

"It's important to conserve and recycle because if we don't we will eventually run out of room for all this waste," Burt said. "I tell my grandchildren, we have to take care of the earth."

Burt said his grandchildren watch him when he recycles newspaper and throws food scraps in the compost pile.

"We set an example by the way we live," Burt said. "Every little bit helps."



City prairies are maintained through controlled burning.



NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL PRESERVING THE CITY'S PRAIRIES

AT FIRST GLANCE, a prairie may appear to be just a mishmash of tall grasses and weeds, but in reality, it is anything but. According to Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Paul Edwardson, the native grasses found in prairies control many unwanted weeds from spilling into city turf areas.

Wildflowers such as giant hyssops, yellow coneflowers, bush clovers and black-eyed susans are abundant in prairies. Some plants are small, while others may grow six feet high. Birds and butterflies are drawn to them. Prairies provide food and habitat for a wide variety of insects and wildlife. They're also

easier to maintain than conventional turf areas. Prairies don't require as much labor, weed control, equipment fuel or fertilizer, which translates to less money and energy used. This also means that prairies are naturally better for the environment.

"As the active use of our parks grows, so does the demand for better maintenance," Edwardson said. "If we can cultivate these naturalized prairie areas, we will have more time and resources to devote to other areas."

These are all reasons why, for the past 15 years, the City has been working to protect and restore Bloomington's 27 naturalized prairie areas.

City prairies are maintained through a controlled burning process every two to four years. The burning reduces weeds such as buckthorn, and gives wildflower seedlings more room to regenerate. Weather conditions have to be just right before a burn by experienced professionals can take place. Prairies may also be mowed if burning is not possible.

"We burn them down to keep them up," Edwardson said. For more information, call Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8162.

CITY PLANNER EARNS LEED CERTIFICATION PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE BUILDING



PLANNER MICHAELA AHERN recently became certified as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP) by the U.S. Green Building Council.

"LEED emphasizes a holistic approach to building. The design and planning of a new structure are focused to achieve a cost-effective, resource-efficient result," Ahern said. "I hope that through my work as a planner, I can share this knowledge with applicants," Ahern said.

Being LEED AP-certified means that Ahern has the knowledge and skills required to facilitate a LEED certification process, which ensures that a building project meets the highest green building and sustainable performance measures.