



ROSEVILLE
SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Newsletter

**Public Works &
Engineering Division**

SEP/OCT 2023



**Sustainability Tip
of the Month—
Black Plastic**



**Sustainability
Resources and
Opportunities**



**Inflation Reduction
Act tips**



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SUSTAINABLE STEWARD

**Be a Roseville
Sustainable
Steward!**

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Sustainability Tip of the Month— Black Plastic

Are black plastic containers recyclable? The correct answer is a resounding **NO**—yet many people (even me!) put these in their recycle bins since they are labeled #5. However, **black plastic containers cannot be recycled.**

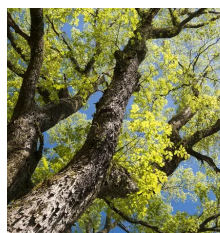


There are two reasons for this—**first, the most valuable plastic to recyclers are clear, white, and light-colored plastics**, since they can be turned into other colors more easily in the recycling process. Black plastics can only be recycled into other black plastic items and are low in value.

Second, Eureka's material recovery facility uses optical sorting machines in their recycling process, and the light from infrared sensors that “see” items on the belt is absorbed by the black color. Black plastic items must be sorted out by hand.

While not recyclable, these containers are durable and can be washed and re-used to organize or store items if you'd prefer not to throw them away. Does your favorite restaurant use these containers for takeout? Let them know that you would like them to switch to a recyclable or compostable alternative!

September Commission Meeting Topic: Trees!



Are you interested in hearing what the City of Roseville does to protect and sustain our local tree canopy, and what we're doing about Emerald Ash Borers? [Watch the recording](#) of our September Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission meeting to hear a presentation from our Parks Superintendent Jim Taylor!

Inflation Reduction Act Opportunities and Electrification



The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is a climate, healthcare, and tax act passed in August 2022 with a goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. It is the largest package of climate investments in US history. We are seeing more frequent and severe effects of climate change, and the federal government is working to implement numerous financial incentives to widely increase adaptation and mitigation efforts across the country.

“Electrification” is shorthand for switching from using fossil fuels for things like transportation and home energy usage to electric or battery sources (including home heating and cooking with natural gas, which is a fossil fuel!). The IRA addresses the urgent need to increase electrification in these areas by providing many tax refunds and eventually instant rebates to offset the cost of purchasing an electric car, insulating and air-sealing a home, or even purchasing a convection stovetop to replace a gas stovetop.

If you're looking to purchase an electric vehicle or make home energy efficiency improvements now or in the near future, be sure to know what rebates are available! There are several great resources to help:

- A great **calculator from Rewiring America** was created to help residents learn what rebates they are eligible for based on their household income level: [RewiringAmerica.org/app/IRA-calculator](https://rewiringamerica.org/app/IRA-calculator)
- **Clean Energy Resource Teams** also has an [excellent Inflation Reduction Act guide](https://cleanenergyresourceteams.org/inflation-reduction-act-what-you-need-know)—I reference this page so much, I just have to type “c” into my web address bar and that’s the first site that comes up!

Sustainability Resources and Opportunities

Xcel Energy Smart Meters—Xcel Energy is installing new smart meters in the Roseville area right now. This means Xcel can respond more quickly to service outages, and help manage electricity load to maximize the usage of renewable energy. [Learn more at their webpage](#), and sign in to your [Xcel Energy Account](#) to see details on your energy usage once your new meter is installed.

Are you passionate about reducing waste? Consider joining Ramsey County’s [Waste Reduction Advisory Committee](#). This group will provide guidance and advice as the county updates their Solid Waste Management Plan in 2024. Applications are due by **December 1, 2023**.

University of Minnesota Electrification Certificate—The MN Center for Electrification Opportunity (CEO) recently launched a [certificate program](#) for prospective students (of all ages!) to learn how to gain the technical skills needed for electrification innovation. Contact electrification@umn.edu for more information on the certification and other upcoming programs!

Metro Transit G Line—Metro Transit is planning a new Bus Rapid Transit corridor on Rice Street, which will serve Roseville neighborhoods in the area. [Read the draft plan](#) and **provide comments and feedback by November 6th**.

Metro Transit free routes—Routes 32 and 62, both of which run alongside or through Roseville, are part of [Metro Transit’s Free Fare Pilot](#). It’s a great opportunity to try transit if you haven’t before! The 32 will take you to Northeast Minneapolis and up to Robbinsdale, and the 62 runs along Rice Street to Saint Paul. Rides are free until December 31, 2024.

Ramsey County Fix-It Clinics—If you have household goods or clothing in need of repair, Ramsey County hosts monthly “Fix-It Clinics” to help residents learn repair skills and reduce waste. Find out upcoming dates and more information [at this link](#)!

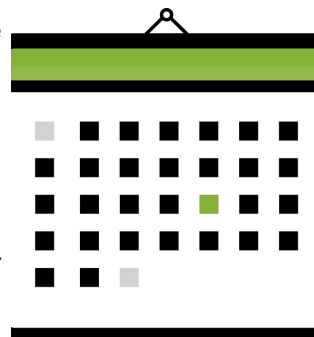
City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

Events

MNimize Fall Food Tour—MNimize is a campaign to reduce single-use plastic at local businesses. Join the MNimize fall food tour to check out the sustainability efforts of restaurants across the area, and enter to win prizes! More information at minimize.org/food-tour/

Ramsey County Climate Plan Community Conversation—Wed Oct 18th, 4-7pm, The Wellstone Center. Ramsey County is developing a framework to guide the county's response to climate change. Attend this event to discuss the draft and enjoy a complimentary meal. [Register at this link](#) (scroll down a bit for the form)

Rice & Larpenteur Winter Warm-Up—Sat Dec 2nd, 1-3pm. Celebrate community and the winter season while warming up with friends and neighbors. The event will include free treats, music, fire pits, and activities. Free—[register your interest at the Eventbrite link](#).



Are you a Roseville Sustainable Steward?



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Do you try to take day-to-day actions to reduce your environmental impact? Do you own a Roseville business that's making efforts to reduce energy usage or waste within your operations? Are you working on a significant home or commercial building project that incorporates energy efficiency and/or renewable energy?

We want to hear from you! Last year we introduced our [Roseville Sustainable Steward program](#) to recognize residents and businesses doing good work to make our community more sustainable.

[Please complete an application form](#) if any of the above questions describe you! Qualified applicants will receive a window cling, sticker, and/or a yard sign, and all applications will be entered into our annual award contest to receive a cash award, certificate, and City Council recognition. Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions—we encourage everyone to apply!

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Positive Climate News



A Fossil Fuel Economy Requires 535x More Mining Than a Clean Energy Economy—Mining is a hot topic right now as the need to extract precious metals and minerals for batteries and other clean energy technology is rising rapidly. However—fossil fuel-related mining is still vastly more extractive.

White House planning to create an American Climate Corps—President Biden intends to use executive authority to train and employ thousands of young people in jobs to fight global warming. This is inspired by the New Deal Program the Civilian Conservation Corps created by FDR, and meant to mobilize and scale up the governmental response to climate change. **Sign up on this page for information and updates.**

In northern Minnesota, early adopters make the case for cold-climate heat pumps. Heat pump installers and early adopters in and around Duluth, Minnesota, are demonstrating how the technology can work even in a notoriously cold climate such as northern Minnesota.

Energy Department announces \$325M for batteries that can store clean electricity longer. One recipient of the funds is the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians in northwestern Minnesota, who will use retired EV batteries to provide demand reduction, load shifting, and resilience to two affordable housing complexes and a Red Lake Nation workforce development campus.

Thank you from your Roseville Sustainability Team!

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