



ROSEVILLE
SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Newsletter

Public Works &
Engineering Division

JAN/FEB 2024



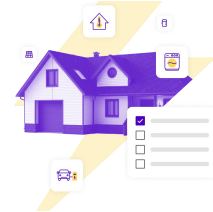
Sustainability Tip
of the Month—
Reduce Plastic



State Electric Vehicle
Rebates Opening



Why is this winter so
weird?



Personal Electrifica-
tion Planner Tool

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Sustainability Tip of the Month—Reduce Plastic Use

Though it seems nearly impossible to completely eliminate plastic in our lives, there are many ways to reduce how much of it we use. Roseville has a team for the **February Plastic-Free Challenge** organized by Ramsey, Washington, and Hennepin Counties. **Join our team** to learn about ways to cut back on plastic!

If you'd rather not join our illustrious team, here are a few other tactics you can use to reduce plastic usage in your life:

- If you use plastic sandwich bags, try **replacing them with a reusable silicone option**.
- **Explore the bulk bins at your grocery store** and try purchasing one or two products from there instead of a pre-packaged version.
- Zero waste options for personal care products like shampoo, deodorant, and others are becoming more available. **Replace one of your products with a zero or low-waste option:** something in a plastic-free container, a solid product instead of a liquid product, or a product with refillable packaging.
- **Support businesses participating in MNimize**, a program to reduce single-use plastic at food service businesses, or other local businesses you know that are working to reduce plastic.
- **Most importantly, learn about recycling and spread the word!** Only about 9-10% of plastic is actually recycled, and much of that is due to recyclable plastic going into the trash. Learn what plastics your community accepts so you can successfully recycle. (Roseville's recycling accepts plastics #1, 2, and 5, and no black plastic)



State Electric Vehicle Rebates open February 7

The MN Department of Commerce Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program opens for applications at **10 a.m. Wednesday, February 7, 2024**. The State of Minnesota has limited funds for EV rebates. When the program launches on February 7, completed applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.



What EVs qualify?

- Vehicles may be new or used.
- Vehicles must be either electric or plug-in hybrid.
- Vehicles must be purchased or leased **on or after May 25, 2023**.
- Vehicles must be titled in Minnesota.
- New vehicles must have base MSRP of \$55,000 or less, excluding taxes and fees. Used vehicles must have a purchase price of \$25,000 or less.

How much money can I get for my EV?

- Rebates are up to \$2,500 for new EVs.
- Rebates are up to \$600 for used EVs

Is there an income requirement to be eligible for an EV rebate?

- No, there is not an income eligibility component to the EV rebate program.

More information and a link to the application (when live) will be available at the [Department of Commerce EV website](#).

What's with this weird winter?



Photo by [Gemma Evans](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Whether you're a winter sports enthusiast or a winter "stay inside" enthusiast, you've probably noticed that this winter has been a little...odd. In fact, while the weather seems mild, it's been historically warm—if we were experiencing a heat wave of this intensity in summer rather than winter, conditions could potentially be life-threatening.

So what's happening? First, **we are currently experiencing a strong El Niño**, which means warm ocean surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean affect regular weather patterns. These conditions are currently keeping cold air confined to northern Canada. El Niño and its counterpart, La Niña (where ocean surface temperatures are colder than usual), typically occurs semi-regularly.

However, combine El Niño with **the effects of climate change—which are already making Minnesota winters milder overall**—and we are now experiencing *extra*-warm conditions. Additionally, the effects of climate change can increase the frequency of strong El Niño episodes.

A great resource to follow is the [State Climatology Office's Climate Journal](#), which typically provides at least a few updates per month about what's happening with weather. [Their latest entry](#) provides an overview of the bizarre winter we've been having, and the [January 2024 recap](#) also talks about the surprising lack of sunny days in what is usually one of Minnesota's sunnier months.

Check out the [WCCO story featuring Roseville's Public Works' experience](#) with the lack of snow this winter!

City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

Events and Resources

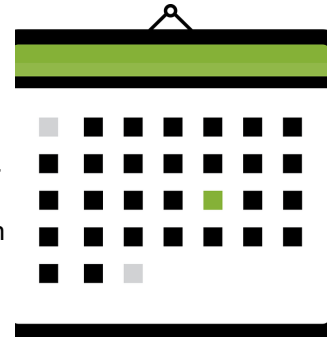
Solar 101—Twin Cities Area Solar Co-op Makes Rooftop Solar More Affordable. Learn how joining a co-op when installing rooftop solar can save money. Hosted by Solar United Neighbors—[more information here](#) and [registration here](#). **Tuesday, February 13th, 6:30pm on Zoom.**

February Sustainability Super Meeting! We will provide an annual overview of our sustainability work and look ahead to our 2024 goals at the Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission meeting. Join us for an engaging discussion on **February 20th, 6:30pm** in the Roseville City Council chambers!

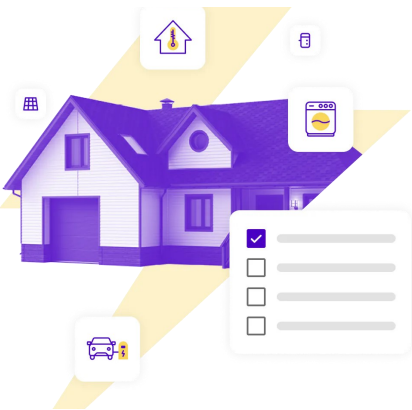
Resilient Roseville winter talks: “A Busy Person’s Guide to Sustainable Living.” - The next session on **Sunday, April 6** hosts Gregory Goodwine from Ramsey County, who will discuss **“The Six Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Repair, and Repurpose.”** Sessions are at the **Ramsey County Library Roseville Branch, 1:30pm-2:30pm.** Free!

Lawns to Legumes cost share applications open for Fall 2024! [Learn more about the program](#) and submit an application. Applications are due May 15th.

Don’t forget that our watershed districts also have grant programs! Check our [Less Mow May](#) landing page for a link to a watershed map and links to each district’s grant program.



Rewiring America Personal Electrification Planner



Rewiring America is already the creator of our favorite [Inflation Reduction Act Calculator](#), and now they’ve created a new and handy tool for homeowners preparing to electrify their homes.

The “**Personal Electrification Planner**” gives you a roadmap for what order different projects could be taken on, including any pre-work like making sure your home electricity is ready for a higher electric load.

The planner tells you **what incentives are available** for each project, **the impact it could have on your electricity bills**, and the **up front cost** for having the work done.

To get started, set up a free account at Rewiring America, enter in basic information about your home, heating/cooling system, some of your appliances, your vehicle, and household income information (which provides them with the information needed to calculate available incentives based on your income level). From there, it will generate a comprehensive project plan.

Do you rent a home or apartment? Rewiring America has created an [electrification guide for renters](#) too!

City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

Positive Climate News



113 year old St. Paul house goes all electric! - Read a homeowner's experience with converting an older home into an energy efficient, emission-free home. A fantastic read for anyone who aspires to do the same in their home!

New York will replace gas pipelines to pump clean heat into buildings—New York state is working on 13 pilot projects to transform underground natural/fossil gas pipelines into underground geothermal networks that work on a neighborhood scale. The Natural Gas Innovation Act passed in Minnesota in 2021 created a framework for utilities to develop innovation projects like this, including networked geothermal/district energy projects.

Solar fence stops snow and generates electricity—Minnesota Department of Transportation is testing a snow fence embedded with 6" wide solar panels. So far, testing shows the 100-foot section produces enough electricity per day to power approximately one household (20 to 30 kilowatts). Scaled up to a mile, it could potentially power 50 homes.

Optimism About Minneapolis for the New Year, and Beyond—while this Streets.MN article is written specifically about Minneapolis, the city's policy influence has spread across the Twin Cities metro and beyond. A hopeful look at how we are making improvements.

Thank you from your Roseville Sustainability Team!

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