

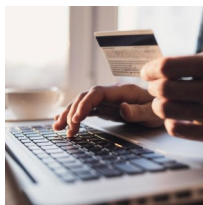


ROSEVILLE
SUSTAINABILITY

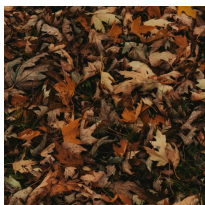
Sustainability Newsletter

Public Works &
Engineering Division

SEP/OCT 2024



Sustainability Tip —
Being a Responsible
Consumer



Fall yard care tips to
support pollinators



New Environmental
Service Center



Good Climate News

Contact Us:

Noelle Bakken
2660 Civic Center Dr.
Roseville, MN 55113
651-792-7057
[Email Us](#)
[Find us Online!](#)

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Sustainability Tip — Consuming Responsibly

As much as we may not want to admit it, **consumption—buying stuff— is deeply embedded within our modern society and our daily lives.** When we think about our changing climate and that we are using resources to make, store, and dispose of all the “stuff,” it can feel overwhelming to navigate the cycle while trying to make good choices. With that in mind, I hope to offer a few tips for climate-smart consuming:

- Use **less, longer, and again.** I take this quote from Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson’s latest book, *[What If We Get It Right](#)*, and I love this fresh take on “reduce, reuse, recycle.”
- **Be mindful about buying stuff.** Ask yourself, “*do I need it?*”, then “*if I need it, does it have to be brand new?*”, or “*can I rent or borrow it?*” Try purchasing gently used clothes, or refurbished electronic devices.
- If you have an option to **buy something made of recycled materials**—either the product itself or the packaging—pick that over something made with virgin (new) resources. **Paper products like paper towels and toilet paper** are a great example!
- **Can you repair it?** By mending worn clothing or fixing an appliance, you can add years of extra service to its life AND avoid purchasing something brand new. Try bringing an item to [an upcoming Fix-it Clinic](#)—no skills required!
- **Minimize electronic waste.** The constant cycle of new devices coming to market creates a wave of discarded electronics, chargers, and cords, many which are made of metals where demand is sharply increasing, like lithium and cobalt. Take care of cell phones and other electronics and use them as long as you can before replacing them, and look at refurbished options when purchasing something new.
- **Reduce plastic waste**—look for products packaged with little or no plastic packaging.
- **Learn more about your favorite brands**—do they have sustainability commitments? Is it a certified B Corp? What are their [labor and sourcing standards](#)? To [what causes do they contribute money](#)?
- **Shop locally!** Supporting local businesses keeps money circulating within our local economy, and means the items you buy don’t have to travel as far to get to you.

Do you have more questions about sustainable living? [Send us a message](#) to let us know what you’d like to learn about in future newsletters!

Fall yard care tips for pollinators, water quality, and more



The leaves are falling, and soon many species of pollinators will be looking for places to nest over the winter. If you have a yard, there are many ways you can help them hibernate safely, and help set up your yard for a productive spring!

Drought

After a record-breaking rainy summer, [most of Minnesota is now experiencing moderate drought conditions](#). Our trees are especially stressed, between a dry winter, soggy summer and spring, and now back to persistent drought. Give your trees and plants a boost by getting the sprinkler out a few times for them before the first frost.

Photo by [Bruno Guerrero](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Leaf care

- Leave some areas of leaf litter in areas protected by wind, where pollinators and other creatures will shelter for the winter.
- If you have heavy leaf cover on your yard after the trees drop their leaves, it's a good idea to remove the leaves, as it can smother the lawn.
- Lighter leaf cover can be mulched by a mower. Mulching makes it easier for the pieces of leaves to remain on the grass and decompose, providing nutrients and keeping leaves out of our local waterways.
- Keep leaves out of the street! Dead leaves are high in nutrients, and when they oversaturate our lakes and ponds in Roseville, the excess nutrients create algal blooms that threaten fish and invertebrates.
- Remove leaves the old-fashioned way (with a rake), or try an electric leaf blower! Gas-powered landscaping tools are run by motors that lack catalytic converters, which are installed on automobiles to help neutralize some of their pollution – a California Air Resources Board study found that using a gas leaf blower for one hour emitted the equivalent amount of air pollution as driving a Toyota Camry 1,100 miles.

Flowerbeds

- Leave some seed heads and stems standing! Stems provide places for cavity-nesting pollinators to overwinter, and birds and other critters will snack on the additional seeds when food is scarce over the winter.
- Garden beds are a great place to leave extra leaf litter, which acts as both a natural mulch and fertilizer for your plants.

Lawn

- Fall is a great time to over-seed your lawn with additional grass seed, or even better, native prairie seed mixes.
- Avoid use of fertilizer on your lawn, or choose zero-phosphorus fertilizers. Excess nutrients from fertilizers are one major reason why we see algae blooms on our lakes and ponds in Roseville.

Yard Waste

Keep lawn clippings and leaves out of streets and storm drains! When decomposing plants and leaves get into storm drains, it leads to harmful algae blooms in our local ponds and wetlands. [Adopt a drain](#) to keep our waterways clean! Use a broom or leaf blower to brush grass clippings back into your yard, or if you have large amounts of clippings and leaves, [bring them to Roseville's leaf recycling center](#) from October 7—November 27.

**ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN**



City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

Events and Resources

Minnesota Home Energy Rebates Public Information Meeting—

(Online) Monday, 10/7, 12:00-1:00pm. The MN Department of Commerce is hosting a virtual public meeting to update Minnesota residents on the planning status of Minnesota's Home Energy Rebates program. [Learn more and register here.](#)

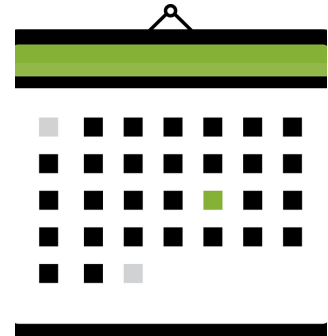
Roseville Electric Vehicle Ride & Drive and Yard Equipment Expo—

Saturday, October 12th, 10:00am-1:00pm, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 2300 Hamline Ave. N. Roseville area residents are invited to come and learn about electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, yard, equipment, and e-bikes at this free event. [RSVP here.](#)

Ramsey Communities Active Living Quarterly Meeting—Monday, October 14th, 2:30-4:30pm, on **Zoom**. Join Ramsey County Public Works staff to kick off the American with Disabilities Act Transition plan engagement process, and hear updates from other staff and elected officials. [Register to attend here.](#)

Metro Transit G Line Project—Did you know Metro Transit is proposing a Bus Rapid Transit route on Rice Street? [Move Minnesota is hosting an online meeting](#) on **Wednesday, October 9th from 12:00-1:00pm** to talk about future bus services near Saint Paul. [Learn more and register here.](#)

A Passion for the Planet performed by the Oratorio Society of Minnesota—Saturday, 11/16 at 7:30pm, Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave W. Geoffrey Hudson's [A Passion for the Planet](#) is an hour-long oratorio on the subject of climate change. Blending scientific prose, poetry, and sacred texts from many faiths, the libretto traces an arc from beauty and gratitude into darkness and out again into hope. Tickets range from \$10-35 (pay what you can option also available); live stream tickets are available. [Purchase tickets here.](#)



New Environmental Service Center Opening April 1



Ramsey County's Environmental Service Center (ESC) will open April 1. This new facility will make it easier for residents to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle.

Located at **1700 Kent St. in Roseville**, the facility will have the following:

- Household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronics drop off.
- Food scraps, household recyclables and scrap metal drop off.
- Free Product Reuse Room.
- Fix-It Clinics.

The ESC will be open year-round Tuesdays through Fridays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be no mobile HHW collection sites in 2025. The current year-round HHW facility at Bay West in Saint Paul will remain open until services transition to the ESC.

Learn more at ramseycounty.us/ESC.

City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

Positive Climate News



Biden wants government to stop buying single-use plastics. The Biden administration announced a commitment to phase out single-use plastics across the federal government, from all food service operations, events, and packaging by 2027, and all federal operations by 2035.

Immigrant farmers, solar company pioneer new methods at Big Lake farm. One of only about 35 farming agrivoltaics efforts in the country, the panels rotate throughout the day to maximize solar production and provide varying amounts of shade to plants that don't grow as well in full sun. The site is a partnership between The Food Group and US Solar, which provides plots for emerging farmers to lease.

A St. Paul, Minnesota Habitat for Humanity project will offer affordable housing without fossil fuels. Construction is underway in St. Paul, Minnesota, on a major affordable housing development that will combine solar, geothermal and all-electric appliances to create one of the region's largest net-zero communities.

Study: Never mind degradation, batteries will outlast EVs in most cases. The biggest concern over electrifying our transportation is how to deal with the batteries at the end of their life, but a new study finds that an average electric vehicle battery only degrades by about 1.8% per year—meaning EV batteries could last over 20 years.

Thank you from your Roseville Sustainability Team!

Ryan Johnson

Environmental Manager

651-792-7049

Ryan.Johnson@cityofroseville.com

Noelle Bakken

Sustainability Specialist

651-792-7057

Noelle.Bakken@cityofroseville.com

