

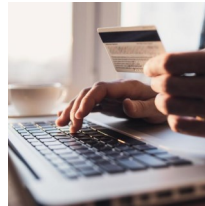


ROSEVILLE
SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Newsletter

Public Works &
Engineering Division

JAN/FEB 2025



Sustainability Tip —
What's the deal with
electrification?



Plastic Free Challenge



Metro Transit Micro
Service



Good Climate News

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Inside this issue:

Sustainability Tip

Plastic Free Challenge

Metro Transit Micro
Service

Upcoming Events,
Opportunities, and
Resources

Good Climate News

Sustainability Tip — What is “Electrification?”

If you follow sustainability topics in the news or elsewhere online, you may have heard about the importance of “electrification” - often either with electrifying transportation, or in various uses at home. **What is electrification, and why is it important?**

The answer has two parts: **first, it means to use electricity to power something that usually uses a fossil fuel-derived gas.** Fossil gas refers to gasoline or diesel in vehicles and lawn care equipment, and natural gas for home heating and cooking. (Natural gas is increasingly being called “fossil gas”—because it too is fossil fuel-derived.) **Second, the reason to use electricity over fossil gas is because we can produce electricity from renewable sources, like solar or wind—avoiding the need to mine, frack, or drill for more fossil fuels.**

Electric vehicles get a lot of attention because there are obvious air quality benefits to using them—no tailpipe exhaust! However, the upsides to reducing or eliminating natural/fossil gas in and around the home can be less obvious. Here are a few facts to know about fossil gas and appliances that use it:

- Natural gas is **methane**, which is a greenhouse gas that **28 times more potent than carbon dioxide**—meaning it is much, much better at trapping heat in the atmosphere, which leads to climate change.
- Gas appliances like cooktops and furnaces **release particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide that reduces indoor air quality**, and can increase risk of or worsen symptoms of asthma, particularly in children and older adults.
 - **Children have higher breathing rates than adults** and are at higher risk in areas of poor air quality, which is also why transitioning to electric school buses is extremely important!
- Leaks and cracks in aging gas appliances like water heaters and clothes dryers can also distribute fossil gas emissions throughout a home, and contribute to poor outdoor air quality when vented outside.
- Space heating and cooling uses a lot of energy—decarbonizing this process will make a very meaningful impact to mitigate climate change!
- **Don't forget about yard equipment**— 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. Check out Xcel Energy's electric equipment rebates to save money!

Sustainability Issues in the news

We already have a “good news” section in this newsletter, but sometimes there are other stories that may not be “positive” but are still important to share! Below are some of those stories worth reading:

[How to adapt your buying habits as Minnesota’s PFAS ban begins](#) (Star Tribune gift link) - some useful tips for transitioning away from products with PFAS you may have in your home.

[A call to action for backyard flock owners](#) (Star Tribune gift link) - As public health professionals and scientists carefully monitor the [Avian Flu](#) outbreak, this columnist offers tips to backyard flock owners on how to protect your birds and keep their habitats safe.

[New Year, New Laws](#)—MPR’s overview of new laws taking effect in Minnesota, including the PFAS ban.

Election impacts on the Inflation Reduction Act - We will be watching very closely for any upcoming changes to this historic bill. In the meantime, **[Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light released a video](#)** discussing the potential impacts of the election on the IRA tax credits, and **[Lawyers for Good Government also released a guidance document](#)** about their predictions. In general, any projects completed in 2025 should continue to receive tax rebates, but beyond 2025, it’s difficult to predict what may come.

Join the Plastic-Free Challenge!



With so many single-use plastic items in our lives, avoiding them may feel overwhelming! Fortunately, there is a lot we can do to help create a world with less plastic. Are you up for the challenge? Join the Plastic-Free Challenge (tcplasticfree.ecochallenge.org) to explore what’s possible, starting on **February 1**.

During the one-month challenge, you can focus on learning about plastic recycling, making plastic-free swaps, and advocating for changes in your community. As part of a community acting together, see how our individual actions add up to a big impact! **[Click here to join Team Roseville](#)** and take part in the challenge!

Metro Transit “Metro micro” service starts in Roseville

Starting January 6, 2025, Metro Transit now operates **[the Metro micro shared-ride service](#)** throughout central Roseville. ADA-accessible minibuses can pick you up and drop you off anywhere within their [service area](#), which is within the bounds of County Road B, Old Highway 8, County Road F, and Victoria.

The service has been active in North Minneapolis and Woodbury since 2022. **Fares range from \$1—\$3.25** depending of time of day and whether you qualify for reduced fares, with free transfers for 2.5 hours.



Download the app or call 651-602-1170 to book via phone! (Note that there are two “Metro Micro” apps—make sure you use the one with the icon to the left, unless you want to use micro transit in California!)



City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

Events, Resources, and Opportunities

Dark Skies and Starry Nights—Sunday, 1/19, 1:30-3:00pm, Roseville library. Why does light pollution matter to our health and ecosystems? What can be done to reduce light in our night skies? It's not about turning off the lights, but lighting the night better. Join Ted Burlett, President of Starry Skies North and [Resilient Roseville](#) to learn about dark skies.

Apply to be a City of Roseville Commissioner! There are currently 11 vacancies on 5 city commissions, and joining a commission is a fantastic way to get more involved in the work we do at Roseville. **Applications are due February 7th.**

Twin Cities Meteorological Society presents the **4th State of the Climate, featuring Kenny Blumenfeld, Pete Boulay, and Michelle Margraf.** Free and open to the public - Thursday 1/30, 6:00-9:00pm. (Program starts at 6:30pm), Anpétu Téca Education Center 2nd floor large meeting room, 1910 County Road B W. Twin Cities Meteorological Society welcomes all to attend the 4th Annual Minnesota State of the Climate free public event in Roseville. This is an opportunity to hear about the data of our state's climate from some of the state's climatology experts, socialize with other weather/climate-invested individuals, hear about and reflect on the voted Top 5 Minnesota Weather Events of 2024, and more.

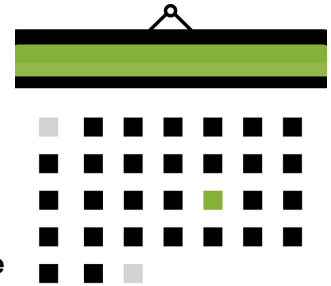
Ramsey County Master Gardeners Present: Winter Sowing—Thursday, 2/13, 6:00-7:30pm, Maplewood library. Learn how to get a jump on the growing season and start cold tolerant seeds while the snow is still falling using Winter Sowing techniques.

Nurturing Resilience, Optimism, and Hope in the face of Climate Change—Sunday 2/23, 2:30pm-3:30pm, Autumn Grove Park building, 1395 Lydia Ave W. Join [Resilient Roseville](#) and City of Roseville Sustainability Specialist Noelle Bakken in a discussion about ways to take care of yourself when climate change news and issues feel overwhelming.

Comment on the State Climate Action Framework update—Minnesota is updating the [Climate Action Framework](#), which was originally released in 2022. The state is looking to accelerate the pace and scale of climate actions effectively to further mitigate the state's greenhouse gas emissions. Review recent public webinars and [share your feedback in their online survey](#). **Survey closes Tuesday, 1/28.**

Ramsey County Winter Warming Spaces—Warming Spaces are open to provide safe and warm shelter overnight to anyone in need during the coldest months of the year. The four Saint Paul locations are open from 9 p.m.-7 a.m. every night through March 31. Transportation to the shelters is available.

Ramsey County Fix-it Clinic—Saturday, 2/22, 10:30am-1:30pm, Maplewood Library. Bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics and more to receive free guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot and fix items. Fix-It Clinics build community connections and reduce the number of repairable objects that are thrown in the trash.



City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

Positive Climate News



Wind and solar beat coal on the US grid in 2024—For the first time ever, solar and wind generated more electricity than coal throughout most of 2024. In the year 2000, coal produced 51% of electricity generation, and has steadily decreased to 16% in 2024—a huge win for climate.

A free, fresh food market has opened its doors to shoppers in Maplewood—Today's Harvest recently opened a new location in Maplewood in December. It will provide a dignified, free shopping experience for anyone in need, including access to fresh, healthy produce, meat, dairy, and bakery items. Most of their food is "rescued" from local retailers before it expires, but while it's still good to eat.

Decades after it disappeared, wild rice is booming again on the Upper Mississippi River—In an area near La Crosse, WI, improving water quality is also leading to a resurgence of wild rice in areas where it was historically common in the 19th century.

Global warming can't be ignored, Montana's top court says, upholding landmark climate case—An August 2023 decision was upheld in a 6-1 ruling that said the state was violating residents' constitutional right to a clean environment by permitting oil, gas and coal projects without regard for global warming.

The US is making and deploying more solar panels than ever before—The Inflation Reduction Act has caused solar panel manufacturing capacity to quintuple, revived domestic cell production, and sparked a surge in deployments.

Thank you from your Roseville Sustainability Team!

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