

About Environmental Services

The Environmental Services Department (ESD) was created to carryout mandated environmental laws of MN. The department has the responsibility of Solid Waste Programming, Local Water Planning, County Feedlot Permitting, Septic System Inspection and Wetland Conservation Act Administration.

This newsletter is focused on solid waste programs and is intended to inform residents of laws, rules and information to prevent violations and health threats.

These recycling/disposal programs are made possible by the Stevens County Board of Commissioners. Questions can be directed to the: Environmental Services Coordinator, PO Box 530, Morris, MN 56267. Phone: 320-589-7420 or email : billkleindl@co.stevens.mn.us

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING



Electronic products containing cathode-ray tubes (more commonly known as picture tubes) contain lead. Therefore they may not be placed in the garbage (MN Stat. §115A.9565). Drop-off for recycling at:

Engebretson Recycling
23780 470th Avenue
Morris, MN
Phone: (320)589-3804
Hours: M-F 8-4
Sat. 8-noon

Fee \$5: Examples of recyclable products—Computers/monitors, TV's, printers, fax machines, & VCR's. Basically if it plugs into a computer or TV it is acceptable.

Stevens County Environmental Services Newsletter



If you're burning garbage, you're making poison.

Burning garbage in your backyard—whether done in a traditional burn barrel, wood stove, fire-pit, or at the cabin—is far more harmful to your, health, our health, and the environment than previously thought.

Backyard garbage burning can affect your health

Garbage has changed - Until a few decades ago, burning garbage in the backyard was much less dangerous to your health. Fifty years ago, most household garbage contained only untreated paper, wood, and glass. Today's garbage contains paper, plastics, and other types of packaging waste that release a hazardous mixture of carcinogens and other toxics (such as lead, mercury and arsenic) when burned. Even seemingly harmless items, like paper, mail, packaging, and card-

board boxes used for frozen pizzas and vegetables, can give off toxic emissions.

Smoke - Pollution created by backyard garbage burning increases the health risk to those exposed directly to the smoke, which is an irritant that especially affects people with sensitive respiratory systems, as well as children and the elderly. Exposure to smoke can also increase the risk of heart disease, cause rashes, nausea and headaches.

Dioxin - But the health concerns go well beyond those who are directly exposed—to those indirectly exposed to these toxic chemicals. Among the health risks posed by backyard burning, is dioxin—a known, potent human carcinogen and endocrine disrupter. Dioxin can have significant impacts on human immune, developmental and reproductive systems. Dioxin exposure is especially harmful for children, pregnant women and the elderly. Cont. on pg. 2.

2009 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections

Cleaning out your garage or basement and wondering what to do with the unwanted or unusable household hazardous wastes? Bring them to one of the following scheduled collections:

City	Place	Date	Time
Morris	County Hwy Garage	5/6/09	10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Chokio	County Hwy Garage	6/17/09	10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Morris	County Hwy Garage	7/22/09	10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Morris	County Hwy Garage	9/30/09	10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Examples of acceptable items: paints, stains, varnish, aerosol products, garden pesticides, automotive fluids, household cleaners, rechargeable batteries. **NO BUSINESS WASTES, FARM CHEMICALS, ASBESTOS, EXPLOSIVES OR FLUORESCENT BULBS.**





Did you know? The EPA estimates that one burn barrel (from and average family of four) can produce as much or more dioxin as a full-scale municipal waste incinerator burning 200 tons per day.

Burning garbage in burn barrels creates low temperature fires (less than 2,200° F), which receive very little oxygen and produce a lot of smoke. Under these conditions, a variety of toxic substances are produced and then released directly into the air without being treated or filtered.



Reduce Waste

If not you, who?

Reducing Waste at Home

Households in Minnesota are creating and throwing away more waste than ever. From junk mail to excess paint to food scraps, this garbage takes time and money to deal with. Fortunately, there's a lot you can do to reduce your waste at home. Besides, nobody likes taking out the trash.

To learn of ways to reduce waste at home, work or at school, check out: www.reduce.org

Backyard garbage burning cont. from pg. 1

In Minnesota, dioxin is of particular concern since a recent survey shows that 45 percent of rural Minnesota residents still burn their garbage. Because burn barrels are more common in the rural, agricultural areas, there is particular concern about high levels of dioxin settling on crops, in streams and lakes—and eventually winding up in the food we eat. Dioxin produced by backyard burning is deposited on plants, which in turn are eaten by animals. When people eat meat and dairy products, the dioxin is absorbed. In fact, over 90 percent of all human dioxin uptake comes from meat and dairy consumption.

Reduction efforts in Minnesota – In Minnesota, open burning of household garbage is banned, with the exception of farms where regularly scheduled pick up of waste is not “reasonably available to the resident” (Minn.Stat. §17.135 and §88.171). However, 28 of Minnesota’s 87 counties have passed no-burn/bury resolutions to close this exemption.

Kick the backyard burning habit. Here’s how to start:

- Recycle More: 40% of all garbage is recyclable. Rural Residents can use the recyclable trailers located at each city in Stevens County on a monthly basis.

- Check into garbage service. It may be more affordable than you think. Contact Engebretson Disposal and Recycling at 320-589-3804 for an estimate.

The majority of this information was taken from the MPCA fact sheet “If you’re burning garbage, you’re making poison”. For more information about the dangers of backyard burning contact the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency at 651-296-6300 or www.pca.state.mn.us/burning. You can also contact the Stevens County Environmental Services at 320-589-7420.

Recycling Information

Contact Information: Engebretson Disposal & Recycling
Location: 23780 470th Avenue, Morris
Telephone: (320) 589-3804
Hours: Mon.–Fri.: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sat.: 8 a.m.-noon

Only the following sorted materials are accepted for residential & rural recycling:

- Newspaper Only—No glossy papers, phone books or magazines
- Aluminum Cans—Crush if possible to save storage space
- Tin Cans—Rinse and remove paper labels
- Glass—Clean clear/brown/green bottles & jars. Remove covers
- Plastic—PETE#1 & HDPE#2 small neck bottles

Residential Curbside Collection Schedule—use your blue recycling bin. Sort recyclables in paper grocery bags.

- Morris Residential Area: Eastside—1st Thursday of month
Westside—1st Friday of month
- Chokio & Alberta: 2nd Thursday of month
- Hancock & Donnelly: 2nd Friday of month

Rural Recycling Schedule—drop off recyclables in recycling trailers at:

- Alberta: 1st weekend of month— South of Cargill Elevator
- Chokio: 2nd weekend of month— County Garage on Hwy 28
- Donnelly: 3rd weekend of month— South of City Park
- Hancock: 4th weekend of month— Next to old Laundromat
- Morris: 3rd & 4th weekend of month— Lee Community Center Lot

Morris Recycling Trailer—residents can drop-off recyclables at:

- Morris Public Works Lot: Every day of the week

Although cardboard is not collected at curbside or in the rural trailers, it can be brought to Engebretson Disposal & Recycling during working hours. Other recyclables can also be dropped off.

Curbside Recycling Bin



Properly sorted recycling materials for curbside pickup.

Rural Recycling Trailer



Place separated recycling materials in appropriate trailer bin.

Household Battery Recycling and Disposal

Once a battery is used up or no longer useful, the battery's chemical will determine how best to dispose of it. Look on the battery's label or packaging to identify what it is made of, then use this guide to identify the safe disposal method. Many stores that

sell electronics or batteries will accept used batteries. Be sure to call first.

In Stevens County we conduct four annual household hazardous waste (HHW) collection opportunities in which you can dispose of

household batteries (not vehicle batteries) free of charge. Check out the schedule of 2009 collections on page 1 of this newsletter. If you have questions on batteries contact the MPCA website: www.pca.state.mn.us/hhw and do a search for household batteries.

Did you know?

Each year over two billion household batteries are purchased in the US to power a variety of products. Some batteries may contain toxic metals like mercury, lead, cadmium and silver, which can contaminate our air and water when the batteries are incinerated or disposed of in a landfill. Eventually these metals can accumulate in living tissue and cause adverse health affects.

Use rechargables!

According to the RBRC, these batteries can be recharged up to 1,000 times before a recycling facility takes them apart and their metals are recovered. Like compact fluorescent bulbs, while the initial cost is higher, you save money in the long run.



Oil Recycling Facts

The used oil you take to a collection site can be recycled into new products, burned for heat or the production of asphalt, or used in power plants to generate electricity. Burning just two gallons of used oil in a power plant can generate enough electricity to run an average household for 24 hours.



Rechargeable batteries: recycle at retailer or HHW site



Nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd)

Lithium ion (Li-ion)

Nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH)

Small sealed lead acid (Pb)

▶ To recycle, check with your local store, or find one by calling the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corp. at 1-800-8-BATTERY, or going to their web site at www.rbrc.org.



Single-use batteries: take to retailer or HHW site



Button

Lithium

▶ Lithium batteries may be reactive. Place each in a separate plastic bag or place non-conductive (electrical) tape over the battery terminals.
▶ Place tape around each button battery.



Vehicle batteries: take to retailer



Lead acid

▶ By law, auto battery retailers must accept up to five lead-acid batteries from consumers free of charge.



Single-use batteries: safe to place in trash.



Carbon zinc

Alkaline

▶ Alkaline exceptions: if purchased in 1993 or earlier, take to your HHW collection site.

Used Oil and Oil Filter Recycling

Used oil and filters often contain hazardous contaminants, such as flammable fuels and their additives, lead and other toxic metals. Used oil that is disposed of improperly can kill vegetation and wildlife and pollute surface water and ground water. For this reason, it is illegal to: pour used oil on the ground; down a drain or sewer; put in the trash or apply to roads for dust suppression.



Recycle your used oil at the following County sponsored locations. If you are a farmer and have large quantities to recycle, call the ESD at (320) 589-7420 for a recycler to pickup oil at your farm.

- County Hwy. Garage—Morris
- County Hwy. Garage—Chokio
- Engebretson Recycling—Morris
- County Hwy. Garage—Morris
- County Hwy. Garage—Chokio
- Engebretson Recycling—Morris



Recycle your used oil filters at one of these County sponsored locations. Filters need to be drained free of all oil.

- County Hwy. Garage—Morris
- County Hwy. Garage—Chokio
- Morris City Garage—Morris
- Engebretson Recycling—Morris

**PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MORRIS, MN
PERMIT No. 3**

**STEVENS COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

400 Colorado Ave.
PO Box 530
Morris, MN 56267



**SAVE this newsletter for future
reference or visit the Environ-
mental Services website at:
www.co.stevens.mn.us**



Printed on recycled paper

Postal Customer

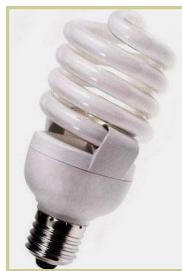
Fluorescent Light Bulbs: Use them, recycle them

Using energy-efficient fluorescent light bulbs makes good sense—you save money on electric bills and help protect the environment. But because they contain mercury, fluorescent bulbs of all shapes and sizes from households must be recycled to avoid polluting the environment and posing a health threat. Never throw these bulbs in the trash—it's illegal to do so.

Also, do not put bulbs out for curbside recycling or in the rural recycling trailer.

Bulb Recycling

Household bulb recycling is free, businesses pay a small fee.



Drop-off bulbs for recycling during business hours at:

Engbretson Recycling
23780 470th Ave, Morris
Telephone: (320)589-3804
Hours: M–F 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m.–noon

Demolition Debris Landfill

Location: 23780 470th Ave., Morris
Hours: M–F 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m.– noon
Telephone: (320) 589-3804



Stevens County has a demolition debris landfill that is permitted by the MPCA to accept materials from the demolition of buildings, roads, and other structures. Cost is \$6 per cubic yard to drop-off. **Examples of acceptable materials are:**

Concrete; masonry; conduit; shingles; drywall; brick; glass; tile; metal; rock; roofing; insulation; wiring; pipe; ceramic fixtures; untreated wood; bituminous concrete; plastic building parts; glass building parts and old buildings.

If you are doing a construction project and have no way to haul the material to the demolition debris landfill, dumpsters are available (for a fee). Call the telephone number above.

Compost & Tree Sites—Yard waste such as leaves, garden trash and grass clippings can be disposed at the compost site near the demolition debris landfill free of charge. Trees/branches can also be disposed but will be charged a fee.