

CARLTON COUNTY

RESOURCE AND RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2020

Wear Your Waste?

I had the fortunate opportunity to attend a talk by Rob Greenfield at the University of MN-Duluth in September. I first heard of Rob Greenfield when I came across a video of a man walking down a busy city sidewalk wearing clear bags full of trash. Clearly it was some kind of demonstration and I was intrigued. As the video

continues, it is revealed that he has collected and wore all the trash he generated for 30 days living like an average American. The average American generates about 4.5 pounds of trash per day. That's 135 pounds a month. That's a lot of trash. But once it's in the bin and

carted off by the garbage or recycling truck, it is easy to forget about.

This is one of Rob Greenfield's self-proclaimed "extreme measures" he takes to demonstrate our environmental impact with the hopes of imposing self-reflection. Reflection on how we consume, use, and then

throw away. Reflection can lead to understanding the negative environmental impacts of our current rate of consumption of natural resources.

Other projects include *The Food Waste Fiasco* where he travelled to cities and only ate what he scavenged from dumpsters. The large quantity of

in Ashland, WI.

So is Rob saying we all need to wear our garbage and live in a tiny house? No. But he is saying we need a mind-set change for our current level of consumption. We are extracting and using earth resources at an unsustainable rate. The suggestion; make a goal of making one change per



food recovered from dumpsters was put on display in public places to demonstrate the vast amount of perfectly edible food we throw away. He lived in a 50 square foot house and collected his own water for a year for *Off The Grid In A Tiny House*.

Oh and also, Rob Greenfield grew up

week or month. Gradual change over time creates new habits.

Follow Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services on Facebook where we have recently shared Rob Greenfield's *Trash Me* video, or visit robgreenfield.tv

Adopting Change for Sustainability

Adopting change for sustainability, a list of 20.

Here is a list of changes you can adopt this New Year and throughout the new decade:

- Always carry a reusable bag.
- Bring your own water bottle everywhere.
- Bring your own coffee mug to the coffee shop.
- Eat less meat. One meatless meal a week or five?
- Shop in the bulk section.
- Shop at a farmer's market or join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture farm).
- Start a garden.
- Carry your own reusable utensils.
- Repair something instead of replacing it with something new.
- Swap disposable paper napkins with reusable dinner napkins.
- Swap reusable towels for paper towels.
- Borrow or rent something instead of purchasing it yourself.
- Buy something used instead of new.
- Walk or bike instead of drive.
- Refuse plastic straws at restaurants.
- Stop buying bottled water.
- Purchase clothing from companies with a commitment to environmental advocacy.
- Take a shorter shower.
- Replace one store bought cleaner with a homemade nontoxic cleaner.
- Ban yourself from buying or accepting new non-recyclable plastic for one month.



Green Schools Project - Carlton County Schools Taking on the Challenge

Congratulations to Churchill Elementary, Cloquet High School, and Wrenshall School which have been awarded Green Schools Project grants in 2020. Churchill is working on collecting organics (leftover food) in the cafeteria and improving school recycling. Cloquet High School's Environmental Club has organized and launched a new sorting station in the cafeteria in which students separate trash, recycling, and organics. They will expand their efforts to collect recycling and organics, along with dissolving the use of plastic utensils, in other

locations throughout the school where students are allowed to have lunch. Wrenshall School will be purchasing indoor worm composting bins as part of science education. Fruit and veggie scraps will be diverted from the trash in the



cafeteria to keep the worm bins alive and active.

Applications for the Green Schools Project grants are accepted and reviewed each year during the month of October. Educational institutions in Carlton County are eligible to apply for up to \$2,000 in grant funds that may be used on waste reduction and recycling practices.

<http://www.co.carlton.mn.us/228/Green-Schools-Project>

Zero-Waste School Lunches

When schools start diverting organics (food waste) to the compost bin in the cafeteria, wrappers and juice boxes from cold lunches are left dominating the garbage can. There are so

many good options for reducing waste from packed lunches.

- Pack lunch and snacks in reusable containers.** Ditch the plastic sandwich baggies and easily take leftovers back

home. For lightweight metal options, use the key word “bento box” when searching for online purchases. Avoid plastic containers, they don’t hold up to high heat dishwashers.

- Use reusable silverware.**

Purchase a set from a secondhand store

instead of sending your good stuff to school.

- Fill a reusable water bottle** instead of a juice box or pouch.

- Cloth napkin.** Wash it with the rest of your laundry.

- Compost leftovers.** In your backyard or pick up a few green compostable bags from the cashier at the Carlton County Transfer Station. Drop them off during open hours at our public food waste drop site.

- Make your snacks.** When you have time, make the lunch snacks your kids like from scratch. Skip the wrappers and individual packaging. Visit our Homemade Snacks board on Pinterest for ideas.



Stainless steel bento box.

TIP: Put “Bags” as the first thing on your grocery list so you don’t forget them, and always have a stash in your car. Remember to bring them to the mall or department store as well. Bags are needed beyond the grocery store.



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[www.pinterest.com/
carltonco/](https://www.pinterest.com/carltonco/).



Get waste reduction updates on Facebook, as well as tips, tricks, and projects on Pinterest.

Carlton County Recycling Center Hours

STAFFED Recycling Centers

*Barnum, Carlton, Esko,
Moose Lake, Perch Lake*

Hours, year-round

Wednesdays

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thursdays

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Fridays

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturdays

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Accepted Materials at Staffed Centers:

Glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs, tin cans, aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, boxboard, cardboard, and office paper

UNSTAFFED Recycling Centers

*Blackhoof, Cromwell,
Holyoke, Kettle River,
Mahtowa, Wright*

Open 24/7, year-round

Accepted Materials at Unstaffed Centers:

Glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs, tin cans, aluminum cans, and newspapers

Transfer Station 1950 Hwy 210, Carlton

Hours Nov. 1 - March 31

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Accepted Materials at Transfer Station:

Glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs, tin cans, aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines, office paper, boxboard, cardboard, car batteries, medical sharps, used motor oil and filters, antifreeze, and food waste.

All recyclables must be clean, removed from bags, and sorted into the proper bin. Thank you!

HHW Closed for Winter

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located at the Transfer Station, closed in October for the winter. We will be open again starting Tuesday, May 5, 2020.



If you have hazardous materials from your home you need to get rid of this winter, WLSSD runs a year-round collection. They are located at 27th Ave. West & Courtland St. in Duluth. Hours are Thursday through Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM.

Visit our website!

Go to <http://co.carlton.mn.us/559/Recycling-Solid-Waste>

- Transfer Station Price Guide.
- Interactive map of the recycling centers in the county.
- Back issues of the Resource & Recycling Newsletter.
- Sign up to receive notifications of new issues of the Resource & Recycling Newsletter.

Have a question?

Call 218-384-9178 or email

recycling@co.carltoncounty.mn.us