



RE/NEWS

Tips and resources for smart residential recycling, composting, waste disposal, and keeping our water clean



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RE/Freshing

Say hello to the new and improved WLSSD newsletter

That's right, the Waste Paper is now RE/NEWS. We'll still be bringing you the same handy news-you-can-use about recycling, waste reduction, healthy homes, and the environment that we've been delivering for decades, but now in a shiny, new package! The use of color and images will help guide you to the information most important to you.

In case our new 'do is crossing your path for the first time, here's a little background on our beloved almanac. The Waste Paper hit the streets in the 1990s in an effort to get the word out

about WLSSD's programs. Since then, it has been published twice each year, jam-packed with information on what to recycle, how to reduce waste, what you should keep out of the trash, how to keep our water clean and other issues concerning our environment. In each issue, we bring you our facility hours, fun facts, and even a little trivia! You'll still find all that and more in the new and improved RE/NEWS!

Like what you see? Let us know! You can email us anytime at re-news@wlssd.com!

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Questions?
Visit wlssd.com or call
the Hotline at 218.722.0761

Taking the Fluff out of Film Plastic Recycling

Dumpster diving, although its appeal as an exciting past time has worn off, can still be a thrilling way to spend an afternoon. Don't believe me? Give it a shot!

Let's start small. Take a peek in the nearest trash bin. What do you see? Wrappers, tissues, maybe some food scraps, take out containers, bread bags, a few zipper-seal bags? Did you find anything that should have gone in a recycling bin? What about any materials that could be collected for alternative recycling, like film plastic?

All your pesky plastic bags and stretchy packaging can be separated for recycling and kept out of the trash! Film plastic is light weight but takes up a lot of space in your trash can. Almost every household has some source of film plastic. Grocery bags, bread bags, newspaper bags, dry cleaning bags, so many bags! You can also recycle the liner bags inside cereal and cracker boxes. Household goods like toilet tissue, paper towels, and even diapers are wrapped in film plastic. Clothing items and other shipments from our favorite online retailers also frequently come individually wrapped in plastic. All of these materials can be collected for film plastic recycling.

Here's the catch....film plastic can't go in your regular recycling bin. It's a different type of plastic than the bottles, jugs, and jars that we accumulate at home. Waste haulers also struggle with the stretchy film binding up the separating process when they're preparing household recyclables for distribution.

You'll need to collect film plastic and tote it to the nearest recycling drop site. Bins are located at most grocery stores and department stores (call ahead or check in at the service counter if you don't see one). WLSSD also provides film plastic recycling at the Materials Recovery Center and the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Lots of options!

Once you get the hang of film plastic recycling, you might notice other areas where you see stretchy bags and packaging piling up. Maybe at work? You might notice shipments arriving with extra packaging. Clothing items typically come in individual bags, many parts and pieces come individually wrapped, pallet shipments are wrapped in stretch film, food items are often in plastic bags. Just like at home, odds are good that your bins at work are bulging with film plastic too.

Great news! There is now a commercial recycling option available for film plastic. A waste hauler can set up service for collection at your location today! Contact WLSSD (218.722.0761) for more information!

Hopefully what started off as a fun, new hobby has transformed you into a dumpster diving extraordinaire! Checking out trash bins isn't the flashiest pastime, but it can really make a difference when it comes to shrinking the amount of plastic that goes in your trash. Keep that fluffy film out of your garbage. Put it to a better use and recycle it—at home and at work! •

SPRING TO-DO LIST



Mowing season is upon us. Clean and sharpen the lawnmower blade. It's better for the grass and saves time when mowing! Also, bring old gas and oil to WLSSD's Household Hazardous Waste Facility.



Pet poop piles? Yep, as the snow melts, lots of things appear that we may not want to think about. Grab a rake and shovel; bag up the waste and put it in the trash. Do your part to clean up the neighborhood. See this and more at wlssd.com/blog.



It's Duluth Community Garden Program's Year of the Kohlrabi. Learn more about One Vegetable, One Community at duluthcommunitygarden.org



It's time to load up and bring your unwanted stuff to WLSSD's Materials Recovery Center. Whether you have a stack of tires and an old dryer sitting in the back yard or boxes of unwanted floor tiles in the basement, we can handle your stuff! We'll recycle or recover as much as possible!



PURCHASE AT WLSSD'S YARD WASTE COMPOST SITE

27th Ave W & the Waterfront, Duluth	1 cu ft (about 40 lbs.)	\$5	HOURS
	1 cu yd bulk	\$22	Friday - Sunday
	1 cu yd bulk loaded	\$30	9 am - 4 pm

Produced at our Organics Composting Facility from food scraps, yard trimmings and brush.

Science Skillz, Life Skillz

WLSSD supports the North East Minnesota Regional Science Fair

Western Lake Superior Sanitary District is a proud annual supporter of the North East Minnesota Regional Science Fair, held this year at the University of Minnesota Duluth on February 3, 2018. Nearly 150 young people gathered to celebrate their achievements in the practice of science—learning firsthand the methods employed to test, record, analyze, and discuss their explorations of this big world.

As the solid waste and wastewater authority for the region, we have a vested interest in encouraging scientific inquiry. While our “poop and trash” management mission may not be rocket science, we think protecting the health of our citizens and our natural environment is pretty important.

We want our students to know how to ask questions and seek answers. Then we want them to come to work with us.

Waste problems are often like big sloppy experiments. Start with a simple “can this be recycled?” question. To answer this, begin by researching everything about the material itself, its origins and components. Who uses this material, what is its condition when its “finished,” and can anyone use it or its parts again?

Once satisfied that the potential to recycle the material exists, and an end market is viable, wrestle with the logistics. Can material be safely and cheaply moved? Will its value exceed the effort or potential environmental costs? Do manufacturing facilities exist to process the material? Can we build a collection infrastructure? If yes, next convince people to use that infrastructure; make it easy and convenient.

Like in most experiments, waste experimenters will know failure. Fail

again! We apply our failures to other waste management problems and learn from them all. We work with others in the field to understand how it works in other communities. Inevitably, we often go back to the beginning and try a different approach. We will work our waste “experiments” again, all the while tweaking and honing and communicating ideas.

These are the skills we love to watch develop in our young people during their process of inquiry at the Science Fair, and these are the thinkers we need working with us at WLSSD. Congratulations to participating students and teachers.

In addition to event support, WLSSD offers three special awards to selected student scientists. Learn about the award-winning projects on our blog: wlssd.com/blog/for-the-love-of-science. ●

RECYCLE YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

- Keep a container near the kitchen sink.
- Line the container with a compostable bag (available for free at most drop sites) with the Biodegradable Products Institute logo.
- Fill with food scraps—from prep, plate scraping, fridge clean-out....
- Drop full bags off at a Food Scrap Drop Site.



FOOD SCRAP DROP SITES

YARD WASTE COMPOST SITE
 27th Ave W & the Waterfront
 Free bags available from staff

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY
 27th Ave W & the Waterfront
 Free bags available from staff

MATERIALS RECOVERY CENTER
 Rice Lake & Ridgeview Roads
 Free bags available from staff

WLSSD Locations available during regular facility hours. Check wlssd.com for hours.

MARSHALL HARDWARE
 Parking lot at 4415 E. Superior St.
 Bags for sale in store

CHESTER CREEK CAFÉ
 1902 E. 8th St.
 Free bags inside café

WILLARD MUNGER INN
 7408 Grand Ave.
 Free bags available from staff

LAKE SUPERIOR COLLEGE
 W-building parking lot at
 2101 Trinity Rd.

Free compostable bags also available at WLSSD Office, 2626 Courtland Street, Duluth

Email gardengreen@wlssd.com with questions.

Automatic, systematic... yes, it's CISMA-tic!

Duluth's Collaborative Invasive Species Management Area

There's a new crew in town—made up of a cool cast of characters already working hard on a difficult land stewardship problem. Duluth Collaborative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) is a public-private partnership dedicated to pooling knowledge and resources to control invasive plants across property lines in our area. Early efforts will focus on buckthorn, Japanese knotweed, invasive honeysuckles, garlic mustard, and non-native phragmites.

Led by the Stewardship Network's Coordinator Lori Seele, the Duluth CISMA is funded by a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Pulling Together Initiative (NFWF PTI) program. As a cooperative effort, the CISMA's first year has successfully gathered a wide variety of stakeholders to develop plans, offer trainings, workshops and literature, and provide a central resource hub to connect experts with groups looking to make a difference.

WLSSD is eager to take part as the regional go-to for getting rid of unwanted stuff, including yard waste and woody debris. But many invasive plants pose management risks throughout their lifecycle, even when plucked, treated, or "dead." Invasive plants must be carefully managed even in disposal.

The message: Manage invasive plants in place, do not move them. First, kill or manage invasive plants as recommended by experts. The MN Department of Transportation (MnDOT) produces *Minnesota Noxious Weeds*, a great guide for land managers and homeowners alike. Next, allow the plant materials to remain onsite to decompose.

Transporting invasive plants (dead or alive) should be avoided when at all possible. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) *Guide to Removal and Disposal of Noxious Weeds in Minnesota* describes the laws and permits required to transport invasive species in our state.

If you bring a load containing invasive plants like knotweed or buckthorn to WLSSD's Yard Waste Compost Site, disclose this information to the site attendant and await instructions. Different species require different handling, and we want to be sure it is done right!

The good news: Should the currently-known invasive plants end up in our compost piles, we are confident our process will kill them.

Continued on page 6 →

4 TIPS FOR BETTER RECYCLING



1

Flatten as many of your containers as possible to save space and make transporting recyclables more efficient.

2

Rinse containers and remove caps from glass bottles.

3

Don't put plastic bags in your household recycling bin. Use paper bags to collect recycling since the bag can be recycled with other paper.

4

Shop wisely. Buy reusable, returnable and recyclable items. Buy items made from recycled material.

NO CURBSIDE RECYCLING?



Look for recycling information in your town or city newsletter or at wlssd.com. You'll find convenient recycling drop-off centers near you.

CANOSIA	GRAND LAKE	NORTH STAR
DULUTH	LAKESWOOD	RICE LAKE
FREDENBERG	MIDWAY	SOLWAY

Bring these items to a recycling drop-off center.

- PLASTIC (household bottles, tubs, jugs, jars and lids)
- GLASS (clear, brown, blue, green)
- ALUMINUM AND METAL CANS (food and beverage cans)
- NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES (including glossy inserts)
- OFFICE PAPER (letter, copier, notebook and computer paper)
- BOXBOARD AND PASTEBOARD (cereal, soda and pasta boxes)
- CORRUGATED CARDBOARD (clean, free of oil and food)

Questions?

Visit wlssd.com or call
the Hotline at 218.722.0761



WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT

FACILITY HOURS

For holiday hours or questions,

Visit wlssd.com or call
the WLSSD Hotline at 218.722.0761

YARD WASTE COMPOST SITE

27th Ave West & Courtland Street

Grass, leaves, garden debris.....	FREE
Brush and branches.....	\$10/cu yd
Dirt and sod (3 cu yd limit).....	\$8/cu yd

Garden Green® compost also available for purchase

MID-APRIL THROUGH MID-NOVEMBER

Friday	9am - 4 pm
Saturday	9am - 4 pm
Sunday	9am - 4 pm
Monday - Thursday	Closed

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

27th Ave West & Courtland Street

Paint products.....	FREE
Button batteries.....	FREE
Used oil and filters.....	FREE
Chemicals and pesticides.....	FREE
Fluorescent bulbs.....	FREE

YEAR-ROUND

Thursday	9am - 4pm
Friday	9am - 4pm
Saturday	9am - 4pm
Sunday - Wednesday	Closed

MATERIALS RECOVERY CENTER

Corner of Rice Lake &
Ridgeview Roads

Mixed waste.....	\$22/cu yd
Microwaves.....	1 free per day, \$5 each add'l
Appliances.....	\$5 each
Tires*.....	4 free per day, \$3 each add'l
Household Electronics.....	\$15, 12, 9, 2 or FREE
Recyclables, fluorescent bulbs, metal.....	FREE

YEAR-ROUND

Tuesday	9am - 4pm
Wednesday	9am - 4pm
Thursday	9am - 4pm
Friday	9am - 4pm
Saturday	9am - 4pm
Sunday, Monday	Closed

*other prices apply for larger commercial & off-road tires

Residential prices are listed. Non-residential customers call 218.722.3336 for pricing.

CARLTON COUNTY FACILITIES

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY

1950 Hwy 210, Carlton

Household hazardous waste accepted at
no charge from residents.

Open for the 2018 season

Tuesday and Saturday 8:30 am - 3 pm



TRANSFER STATION

1950 Hwy 210, Carlton

Solid/demolition waste, appliances, electronics, tires
and brush accepted for a fee from Carlton residents. Look
for the food waste drop site, too.

Summer hours - April 1 to October 31

Monday - Saturday 8:30 am - 4 pm

For rural recycling shed locations and hours,
visit www.co.carlton.mn.us/254/Recycling

TRASH TRIVIA



QUESTION

Where can clean, dry plastic
bags be recycled?

All answers received by 5 pm on Thursday, May 31, will
be entered into a drawing for a reusable shopping bag
kit with recyclable items. Please email your answer to
re-news@wlssd.com

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWER

**Q. Fatbergs are sort of gross. What is the worst thing you may
have put down the drain?**

A. Sounds like the worst thing admittable has been occasional
cooking oils and fats down the drain. Thankfully, we didn't hear
about any serious clogs! The best bet is to use a grease can and
toss the solidified fats into the trash. Large amounts of liquid fats,
like fryer oil, can be recycled free at WLSSD's Household Hazardous
Waste Facility.

*Limit one Trash Trivia winner per household per year

Q&A



Have a question?

Email your question to
re-news@wlssd.com or
contact us at wlssd.com

Where can I recycle my household batteries?

You've got several options for recycling batteries from household and personal items. But first, sort out the single-use alkaline batteries and throw them in the trash.

Once you're left with button, lithium, and rechargeable batteries (nickel-cadmium, nickel-metal hydride, lithium-ion), they can be recycled at WLSSD's Household Hazardous Waste Facility or several other locations in the Duluth/Hermantown area. These Call2Recycle sites are: Acme Tool, Sears, Home Depot, HobbyTown USA and Denny's Ace Hardware (complete details available at call2recycle.org). •

How much compost should I put on my lawn? I'm trying to spruce it up.

If your lawn needs a little TLC, then you'll want to spread about ½" of compost on it. Lightly rake the compost to spread out. For bare spots, you'll rake the compost into the soil a bit before reseeding and watering.

One cubic yard of WLSSD's Garden Green® compost will cover nearly 650 square feet of lawn (when spread ½" thick). Depending upon how much lawn needs a pick-me-up, you might consider buying compost by the bag (each covers about 24 square feet of lawn). Instructions for using Garden Green® compost are at wlssd.com. •

Automatic, systematic... yes, it's CISMA-tic! (Cont'd)

WLSSD's large-scale composting operation is a vigorous process. We unleash the all-natural vengeance of Mother Nature herself by combining yard waste and woody debris with food scraps in just the right ratios. The microorganisms in the mix digest the materials, breaking them down and at the same time, generating heat—lots of heat.

Studies of large-scale composting operations show that microbial action, with its high temperatures over a long period of time, does a great job of killing our region's most common invasive plants' tissues and seeds. This is not true of home compost piles; home piles do not generate enough heat, for long enough periods of time, to kill invaders.

Our compost site operations staff follow best management practices to reduce the risk of invasive species in our finished compost. Practices include incorporating loads known to include invasives into actively composting piles quickly, and maintaining high temperatures as required.

The bad news: We definitely know that transporting invasive species—including to our compost facility—greatly increases the risk of spreading them into new areas.

Good compost research takes a lot longer to conduct than invasives do to spread. We have so much to learn, and new invasive species continue to crop up. We must remain constantly vigilant

while supporting the efforts of compost research organizations.

Do your part! Have a plan to tackle invasive species. From start to finish, the Duluth CISMA is a great support in formulating that plan. Their resources can help you identify invasive plants and offer treatment, management and control strategies. Keeping invasive species in check must be a cooperative effort, and we're glad the Duluth CISMA is here to offer guidance.

Learn more at stewardshipnetwork.org/duluth. •



Recycled paper made with 30% post-consumer waste, processed chlorine-free

A newsletter about solid waste and wastewater treatment within the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, published for residents of the WLSSD service area. Comments and questions are welcome at re-news@wlssd.com or 218.722.3336. WLSSD provides award-winning wastewater treatment and solid waste management for a 530-square-mile service area in St. Louis and Carlton counties.

WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANITARY DISTRICT

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