



ROSEVILLE  
SUSTAINABILITY

# Sustainability Newsletter

Public Works &  
Engineering Division

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Sustainability Tip  
of the Month—  
Spring Gardening



Green to Go  
introduction



Textile Collection with  
ReTold



Ramsey County  
Climate Action  
Framework

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## Inside this issue:

Sustainability Tip

Green to Go

Textile Recycling

Ramsey County Cli-  
mate Framework

Upcoming Events

Good Climate News

## Sustainability Tip of the Month—Spring Gardening

It may feel like spring is extra early thanks to El Niño's continued influence in Minnesota, but if you want to make sure you're helping spring pollinators, don't get your rakes and clippers out just yet.

If you left leaf litter around your yard and in your beds over the winter, you likely have many winter hibernators living there! Ground-nesting bees, bumblebees, and many other pollinators use that leaf litter for cover, and cavity-nesting pollinators may still be snoozing in your leftover stalks from the end of last season. Most won't emerge until temperatures warm to 50 or 60 degrees.



Photo of Trout Lily by [Andrew Krueger \(MPR\)](#)

### Follow these tips for pollinator-friendly spring gardening:

- **Wait until temperatures are consistently 50 degrees or higher** to rake, mow, or do other yard cleanup
- Once you start cleaning up old stems from perennials and annuals, **inspect them to see whether they are plugged with mud or other vegetation**. If they are, it means there could be bee larvae in those stems. Leave them in a quiet part of your yard where they can emerge safely later.
- **Wait to mulch** - adding mulch to your beds can prevent the soil from naturally warming and telling the ground-nesting bees it's time to emerge. Leave some un-mulched areas so there are access points from below the ground.
- **Participate in [Less Mow May!](#)** Let those dandelions, violets, and clover bloom - they provide crucial nutrition for pollinators when it's too early for other plants to bloom.
- Parts of Minnesota (including Roseville) are now in [hardiness Zone 5](#), and there may be some new plants you could add to your yard.
- **Make sure plants are free of neonicotinoids and other insecticides that are harmful to native pollinators.** The [Ramsey County Master Gardeners plant sale on May 18](#) is a good place to find untreated native plants that are safe for pollinators.

## Green to Go Ordinance Proposal

The City of Roseville is considering an ordinance requiring food establishments to provide either recyclable or compostable single-use containers for to-go food packaging. **Packaging includes containers used to transport foods or beverages for immediate consumption such as serving trays, plates, containers, boxes, and cans.** It does not include bags.



### Who is Affected?

Businesses that provide take-out food packaging/containers or utensils. This includes restaurants, but also organizations providing to-go food or beverages (free or paid) at events that require a permit or license, **including restaurants, gas stations, food trucks, grocery stores, and convenience stores.**

Please visit our [Green to Go page](#) for more information, and consider completing our **Green to Go surveys** for either [residents](#) or [local food business owners](#).

We are also hosting **two community conversations at Cedarholm Community Center**—please stop in to ask questions and hear from Biz Recycling, city staff, and packaging suppliers:  
**May 6th, 9:00am-10:00am** and **June 24th, 2:00pm-3:00pm.**

## Ramsey County prepares for climate change with new action framework

The effects of climate change impact everyone in Ramsey County. So, the county is taking steps to address that and create opportunities to strengthen the economy, improve health and create a more equitable community for everyone.

Ramsey County recently published its first [Climate Action Framework](#) to guide the county's response to climate change. The framework was developed with input from residents, county staff and key partners. It builds on the six focus areas identified in the [State of Minnesota Climate Action Framework](#):

- **Clean transportation:** Connect people to places through a safe, equitable and sustainable transportation system.
- **Climate-smart natural land:** Manage county land to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support healthy ecosystems and increase environmental resilience.
- **Thriving communities:** Collaboratively build the capacity of Ramsey County communities to survive and thrive in changing conditions.
- **Clean energy and efficient buildings:** Pursue 100% carbon-free, reliable and affordable electrical power and heat sources through policies, investments and partnerships.
- **Healthy lives:** Partner with community to reduce the direct and indirect health impacts of climate change together.
- **Clean economy:** Build an economy that addresses climate change and creates equitable opportunities for all.

County departments will focus on “near-term” actions outlined in the plan over the course of 2024. They will share updates on this work at [ramseycounty.us/climate-action](https://ramseycounty.us/climate-action).

A team of residents will meet with county staff regularly throughout the year to review progress and discuss ways to improve outcomes. While the current team has been selected, there will be opportunities for new residents to participate later in the year.

Learn more about Ramsey County's [climate action work](#) and sign up to receive updates.

City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

Events and Resources

Resilient Roseville winter talks: "A Busy Person's Guide to Sustainable Living." - The next session on Sunday, April 7 hosts Gregory Goodwine from Ramsey County, who will discuss "The Six Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Refuse, Repair, and Repurpose." Sessions are at the Ramsey County Library Roseville Branch, 1:30pm-2:30pm. Free!

Citywide Clean-up Day: Saturday April 27, 8:00am-1:00pm, 2555 Dale Street. Bring items that require special handling or large quantities of items. More info and pricing at this link. Roseville residents only.

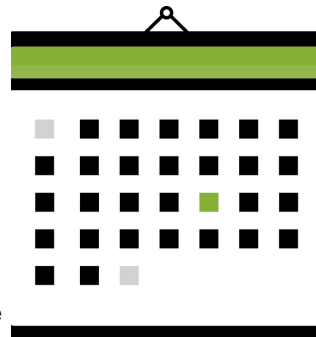
Earth Day: Saturday, April 20, 10:00am-2:00pm. Harriet Alexander Nature Center, 2520 Dale Street. Come enjoy free, family-friendly activities!

Lawns to Legumes cost share applications open for Fall 2024! Learn more about the program and submit an application. Applications are due May 15th.

Don't forget that our watershed districts also have grant programs! Check our Less Mow May landing page for a link to a watershed map and links to each district's grant program.

Rice Street Visioning Art Survey—What type of art do you want to see along Rice Street? Take the Rice Street Art Survey by March 15 (TODAY) to share your thoughts! Your feedback will be used to shape the future of Rice Street.

Highway 36 Study Survey—Learn about the study at this link and give your feedback in the online survey. Survey closes March 17.



Recycle your unwanted clothing and other textiles



The City of Roseville is excited to partner with Retold Recycling to host a textile recycling event for residents. Collection will be held in conjunction with Roseville's cleanup event on April 27th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Items accepted include clothing, blankets, towels, dishcloths, bed linens, cotton face mask, single socks, and even underwear. All items must be clean and dry, and brought to the collection in a tied plastic bag.

Retold Recycling meticulously sorts and recycles all donated textiles, ensuring each item enjoys a second life. They may be repurposed by thrift stores, upcyclers, rag companies and others. Learn more at RetoldRecycling.com

This is a free collection. Vehicles bringing in only textiles will not be charged a cleanup event fee.

City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

Positive Climate News



**Heat pumps slash emissions, even when powered by a dirty grid** - An NREL study finds that heat pumps reduce carbon pollution regardless of the grid mix, on average between 36% and 64% per household or 2.5 to 4.5 metric tons of carbon per year. Based on an interactive map from NREL, Minnesotans could save over 6 metric tons of carbon installing a high efficiency cold climate heat pump in combination with other efficiency measures. Our renewable energy mix from Xcel Energy is higher than many utilities, so Roseville residents should feel confident making the switch to a heat pump!

**Minnesota lawmakers look to put packaging companies on the hook for materials waste** - bill recently introduced in the legislature would require all packaging in Minnesota to be recyclable or compostable by 2035. By putting pressure on the source of materials production, less burden is placed on the consumer within the product life cycle. Related on a larger scale: EU to ban single-use plastic in deal on new green packaging rules.

**Coming Soon to Manhattan, a Brand-New Tiny Forest** - Called the Manhattan Healing Forest, it will be planted using the Miyawaki method, which was created by the Japanese botanist and plant ecologist Akira Miyawaki. First, the land is painstakingly prepared, usually with compost and mulch. Then, native trees and shrubs are planted close together, encouraging the flora to rapidly grow. According to proponents, Miyawaki-style forests become self-sufficient within three years and can achieve maturity within a few decades. Along the way, they provide habitat for insects and wildlife, absorb carbon and clean the air.

Thank you from your Roseville Sustainability Team!

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