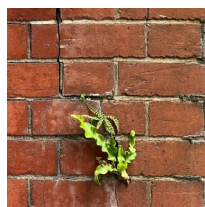




Sustainability Newsletter

Public Works &
Engineering Division

MAR/APR 2025



Sustainability Tip —
Maintaining positivity
and resilience



Ramsey County
Environmental Center



Textile Recycling &
Cleanup Day



Good Climate News

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Sustainability Tip — Maintaining Resilience

Whether we like it or not, we are currently living through a time of great upheaval, and part of that is witnessing the effects of climate change alongside federal rollbacks of support for adaptation and mitigation. Staying positive and grounded right now can feel out of reach for many of us (myself included at times!). Rest assured, Roseville remains committed to our [sustainability projects and initiatives](#) (with more to come soon!).

I frequently lean on many of the below tactics to keep my chin up when the world feels discouraging. Note that these are not a substitute for proper mental health treatment and therapy, but additional tools to keep in your toolbox—I am not a therapist and what works for me may not work for you.

- **Fully feel your emotions, and learn how to complete the stress cycle.** Scrolling through social media and news headlines can send us through emotional whiplash, and can make our brains feel like we're constantly under threat. Make sure you take time to process what you're seeing, and complete the stress cycle with a good cry, a good laugh, or moving your body in a way that works for you.
- **Seek out good news.** There's a reason I always include good climate news in these newsletters! Distressing headlines get more clicks, so sometimes you have to work to find the positivity. Great things are still happening, and there are people working towards the greater good. Make sure you pay attention!
- **Practice "stubborn optimism" as the "necessary input for meeting a challenge."** This is a direct quote from the book [Stubborn Optimism](#) by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac. I define stubborn optimism as a verb, working towards the greater good despite the headwinds we may encounter.
- **Embrace joy.** Know what types of things make you feel joyful, silly, and free, and make time for them. When you're engaging in those things, stay present and notice how you feel in the moment.
- **Rest.** When you are tired and/or burned out, you won't be helpful to yourself or anyone. Take the time to recharge your batteries and disconnect.
- **Think beyond the present.** What I mean by this is contextualize our current moment within a long arc of history (both past and future), and know what kind of a future you want to create. Zen master Norma Wong writes "**what we cannot imagine is more difficult to create.**"
- **Lean into your local community.** Our local connections, or what is sometimes called "social capital," are critical to creating a healthy and connected community. [This NY Times quiz](#) is a good start to think about your social relationships.

Ramsey County Environmental Center Officially Open!



As the sun peeks through the clouds, snow begins to melt and the temperature warms, you may find yourself in spring cleaning mode. Lucky for you, Ramsey County opened a brand new Environmental Center on April 1st! At 29,421 square feet, this new facility will make it easier for residents to reduce, reuse, repair, and recycle.

This building not only enhances environmental health services to better meet the needs of residents but also reaffirms Ramsey County's commitment to sustainability, reuse, and supporting natural and native

landscapes and habitats:

- **The building is powered and operated by geothermal and solar energy sources:**
 - **Geothermal:** 42 wells, each roughly 150 feet deep, which will generate 412,560 BTU in heating and 786,240 BTU in cooling.
 - **Solar:** 221 panels, 90kW array
 - Outlets are designed to reduce phantom energy (electricity being used by a device that is plugged in but turned off), and all lighting is on motion sensors
- **Sustainable landscaping:**
 - 2,300 tons of food scrap compost used across the project site, helping retain water
 - Prioritized protecting large trees, and smaller trees that were removed are used as wildlife habitat in the stormwater pond
 - Native plants and insect hotels to attract pollinators
 - 76 trees and 453 shrubs planted
- **Water quality, conservation, and protection:**
 - Installation of a stormwater retention pond that serves half of the property
 - Rain chain and rain barrels for catching rooftop rainwater
 - **Closed collection drip, or floor drain**, throughout the household hazardous waste (HHW) drive-through that has no outlet. That means it is completely self-contained, preventing chemicals and oils contaminating stormwater or sanitary sewer system.
- **Recycled and sustainably-sourced materials** throughout the building's interior and exterior:
 - Exterior [picnic tables and patio furniture](#) produced by [Vestre](#), a manufacturer of urban furniture
 - Patio pavers salvaged from roads in the Twin Cities that were removed during road rebuilds
 - Shelving end caps in the reuse room made from Green Ash lumber from City of Minnetonka
 - Walking trail loop around the stormwater pond is made from recycled asphalt

The Environmental Center is located at 1700 Kent Street, and is open Tues-Fri 11am-6pm, and Sat 9am-4pm.

Roseville pivots away from "Less Mow May"

In our ongoing efforts to support native pollinators and provide habitat, based on new scientific evidence, Roseville is moving away from support of Less Mow May to affirm and promote year-round pollinator support efforts. [We've updated our yard care web page](#) to include more resources about supporting pollinators in your backyard, including tips about responsible mowing practices and water conservation.

We still have "Less Mow May" yard signs and don't want them to go to waste! As such, we have stickers to add to your signs that say "summer." Look for an email about when the stickers will be available soon!

To kick off our new direction, **Roseville will be offering a native plant sale to residents in late May.** Residents will be able to purchase plant kits or seed mixes at a low cost. Plants will be available for pre-order on the Roseville website starting in late April. More information about how to order will be ready soon!

City of Roseville Public Works & Engineering

Events, Resources, and Opportunities

Tackling Carbon Emissions and Embracing the Power of Change—

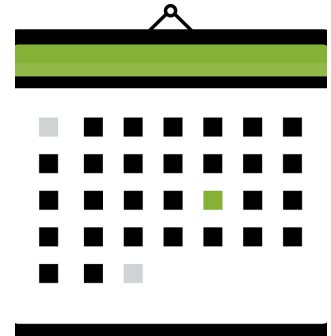
Join the St. Christopher's Green Team and Dr. Steven Jorissen for a presentation that will discuss the current sources of carbon emissions, the alternatives in place and under development to replace carbon emitting sources, and what can we as individuals do to accelerate the transition to a low/no carbon economy. **Monday, 4/7, 6:30pm, at St. Christopher's, 2300 Hamline Ave N. Roseville.**

Upcoming Earth Day events:

- 4/19—[Rice and Larpenteur Alliance Spring Cleanup](#)
- 4/22—[Rosedale Center BLOOM: Earth Day](#)
- 4/24—[Ramsey County Environmental Center Open House](#)
- 4/26—[Roseville Cleanup Day](#)
- 4/26—[Roseville Earth Day Celebration](#)
- 4/26—[Anpétu Téča Sustainability Sale](#)

Lawns to Legumes Fall 2025 Individual Support program—Apply by **May 15** to be considered for a reimbursement grant of up to \$400 to create pollinator habitat in your yard. [Application link is here.](#)

- Related: [Blue Thumb's list of native plant sales](#)



Recycle your unwanted clothing and other textiles



The City of Roseville is excited to partner again with Retold Recycling to host a textile recycling event for residents. **Collection will be held in conjunction with [Roseville's cleanup event](#) on April 26th 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



Solar power gives resort ‘new blood, new life’ - The Lodge of Whispering Pines, 20 miles north of Ely, used to close each winter because of energy costs. Now a new solar installation provides almost all of the lodge’s electricity and allows them to stay open year-round.

Minnesota’s largest utility deepens clean energy commitments in long-range energy plan—Xcel Energy recently released its integrated resource plan, which details what sources the company uses to generate power. Their latest plan has commitments to expand wind and solar energy, as well as battery storage to complement those investments. [Read more about the plan here.](#)

Here’s what the rise of clean energy looks like from space—The New York Times recently released an interactive article showing wind and solar installations across the world since 2017, based on an [atlas developed by Global Renewables Watch](#).

‘Priceless property’: 3M’s historic northern Minnesota resort to become public land—What was once an exclusive resort for 3M employees will be open to the public, after Minnesota Land Trust and Northern Waters Land Trust purchased the nearly 450 acre property and transferred ownership to the DNR.

Thank you from your Roseville Sustainability Team!

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