Residential recycling topics calendar

2026

The topics calendar outlines upcoming promotions and educational or awareness-raising efforts the county and other partners are planning. The calendar is intended to help city recycling coordinators and communicators plan communication efforts to help promote current programs and services and deliver consistent messaging. A media kit will be available for many of these topics with resources and messages you can use in your communication channels.

The calendar includes topics split into two categories:

- **Program promotions:** Includes things to promote during a specific month because they are tied to a specific event, opportunity, or deadline.
- **Education topics:** Suggested topics to promote based on seasonality or to align with what the county or partners statewide, like the Recycling Education Committee (REC), are promoting.

January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Program promotions • Join the Plastic-Free Challenge • Waste prevention and recycling grants for businesses and organizations, schools, multifamily properties • Fix It Clinic: January 10 at Brookview **Education topics** • Holiday disposal options • REC recycling topic: e-waste, cardboard • REC organics topic: Christmas trees and wreaths, how to start organics recycling	**Program promotions** • Plastic-Free Challenge • Waste prevention and recycling grants available for businesses and organizations, schools • Spring Community Recycling Ambassador class (application open February 12 – February 26) • Fix-It Clinic: February 14 at Edina Community Center • Swap-It Event: February 28 at Ridgedale Library (Kitchen gadgets) **Education topics** • Plastics recycling, reduction, and advocacy • Battery Recycling Day • REC recycling topic: metal • REC organics topic: sneaky • contaminants, cut flowers	**Program promotions** • Recycling Exists • Fix-It Clinic: March 15 at American Swedish Institute • Swap-It Event: March 21 at Edina Fire Station 2 (Toys) **Education topics** • Spring cleaning: green cleaning recipes, Green Disposal Guide • REC recycling topic: batteries and cell phones, glass • REC organics topic: what is accepted, buy BPI

April 2026

Program promotions

- Recycling Exists
- Trash or Cash
- Earth Day: events and cleanups
- Fix-It Clinic: April 11 at St Louis Park Rec Center
- Backyard composting: educational webinars

Education topics

- Backyard composting
- Food waste prevention week
- REC recycling topic: paper, shredded paper
- REC organics topic: spring cleaning, benefits for the soil

May 2026

Program promotions

- Household hazardous waste collection event: May 1 and 2 at Minnetonka Public Works
- Swap-It Event: May 2 at Rockford Road Library (Outdoor gear)
- Fix-It Clinic: May 9 at Ridgedale Library
- Furniture collection event: May 16 at Robbinsdale Public Works

Education topics

- Building material salvage and reuse
- Backyard composting
- REC recycling topic: plastic, plastic bags
- REC organics topic: International Compost Awareness Week, watch for imposters

June 2026

Program promotions

- Swap-It Event: June 16 at Plymouth Community Center (Athletic gear)
- Fix-It Clinic: June 13 Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
- Waste prevention and recycling grants available for multifamily properties

Education topics

- Recycling on-the-go
- Green events, parties, and celebrations
- REC recycling topic: no small plastic items, recycling saves water
- REC organics topic: organics at events, buy in bulk

July 2026

Program promotions

- Household hazardous waste collection event: July 10 and 11 at Jenny Lind Elementary School
- Fix-It Clinic: July 11 at Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Salvage Crawl July 13 to 31
- Furniture and building material reuse event: July 25 at Hennepin County Public Works in Medina

Education topics

- Event Recycling
- Food waste on the go
- REC recycling topic: sharps and needles, recycling saves energy
- REC organics topic: PFAS and microplastics, traditional recycling vs organics

August 2026

Program promotions

- Save Food, Spend Less Challenge: Become a partner
- Furniture collection event: August 1 at Donaldson Park
- Household hazardous waste collection event: August 7 and 8 at Sullivan STEAM School
- Fix-It Clinic: August 8 at Wayzata Community Church
- Swap-It Event: August 15 at Mt Olivet Lutheran Church (school supplies)

Education topics

- National Thrift Day (August 17)
- REC recycling topic: large plastic items, recycling creates jobs
- REC organics topic: environmental benefits of organics, pet waste, bedding and litter

September 2026

Program promotions

- Save Food, Spend Less Challenge: Join the challenge
- Community Recycling Ambassador course registration
- Furniture and building material reuse event: September 12 at Brooklyn Park Public Works
- Fix-It Clinic: September 12 St Anthony City Hall and Community Center
- Furniture and building material reuse event: September 23 at St. Louis Park Municipal Service Center
- Swap-It Event: September 26 at Eden Prairie Community Center (holiday decor)

Education topics

- Waste prevention and recycling during your move
- Food Waste Prevention Week
- REC recycling topic: hazardous waste, recycling saves natural resources
- REC organics topic: school organics, troubleshooting tips

October 2026	November 2026	December 2026
Program promotions • Save Food, Spend Less Challenge • Waste reduction and recycling grants for schools close in October • Household hazardous waste collection event: October 2 and 3 at Hennepin County Public Works Orono Shop • Fix-It Clinic: October 10 at St Stephen Lutheran Church **Education topics** • Prevented wasted food while planning, shopping, cooking, and storing (in conjunction with the Save Food, Spend Less Challenge) • National Reuse Day (October 20) • Repair and mending • Eco-friendly Halloween tips • Yard waste and fall leaf clean up • REC recycling topic: holiday lights and extension cords, recycling myths • REC organics topic: what to do with leaves, pumpkins	**Program promotions** • Waste reduction and recycling grants for businesses and multifamily close in November • Fix-It Clinic: November 14 at Central Lutheran Church **Education topics** • Yard waste and winter prep, pumpkin disposal • Thanksgiving: Reducing waste while preparing for a feast • Gifting shopping and giving • Daylight savings: Battery recycling • America Recycles Day • REC recycling topic: plastic bags, recycling myths • REC organics topic: Preventing food waste over the holidays, invasive pests and insects	**Program promotions** • Plastic-Free Challenge: Join the challenge and become a partner • Fix-It Clinic: December 12 at Mt Olivet Church **Education topics** • Winter gear: buying used and renting • Sustainable holidays: decorating, gifts, wrapping, celebrations • Recycling and disposal after the holidays • REC recycling topic: batteries and cell phones, recycling myths • REC organics topic: organics year-round, clothing and textiles