

Calendar

Take advantage of seasonal milestones and environmental holidays:

Winter (December – February)		Spring (March – May)	
Occasion/topic	Message	Occasion/topics	Message
January 1: New Year's Day	Commit to a green resolution for the new year.	March 22: World Water Day	Take actions to protect water by keeping grass clippings and leaves off the street, using a rain barrel, limiting chemical and fertilizer use or planting rain garden.
February 2: World Wetlands Day	Take actions to protect wetlands by limiting winter salt use on ice and picking up trash near wetlands.	Second Sunday in March: Daylight Savings	Conserve energy while you spring ahead. Ideas include drying clothes outside, conducting a home energy audit, and converting to renewable energy.
Salt and ice care	Salt used to treat ice and snow contains chloride that can end up in nearby water resources, causing permanent damage. Take the following actions to reduce the amount of chloride getting into lakes, rivers and streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply salt before a snow storm to prevent snow and ice from building up. • Use sand for traction below 15 degrees Fahrenheit because most salts stop working at this temperature. • Remove snow and ice manually. • Sweep up excess salt and properly dispose of it. 	Second or third week in April: National Environmental Education Week	Check out environmental education programs and resources from Hennepin County at www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation and get involved.
Green celebrations	Use reusable supplies, dishware, and decorations. Provide recycling and organics recycling at celebrations.	April 22: Earth Day	Celebrate Earth Day by attending or planning a cleanup event in your community and commit to taking action to protect the environment.
Green gift giving	Give low- or no-waste gifts such as a homemade treats, gift cards, tickets to a show or a service like babysitting.	Last Friday in April: Arbor Day	Celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree in your yard or at your organization.
Air quality	Sign up for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's air quality alerts and take appropriate action during alerts, such as limiting snow blower use.	Spring cleaning	Make homemade green cleaners with water, vinegar, dish soap and lemon juice as an alternative to chemical cleaners and properly dispose of household hazardous waste and other items. For more information, visit www.hennepin.us/greendisposalguide .
		Yard and lawn preparation	Don't rake grass clippings and leaves into the street. Leave them on your lawn, use them for compost, or bag them up. Grass clippings and leaves left in the street end up in the storm sewer, where they are carried to nearby lakes and streams.

Summer (June – August)		Fall (September – November)	
Occasion/topic	Message	Occasion/topic	Message
August through October: Choose to Reuse campaign	Reduce waste and support local businesses by ordering a Choose to Reuse coupon book to get discounts at local reuse stores.	August through October: Choose to Reuse campaign	Reduce waste and support local businesses by ordering a Choose to Reuse coupon book to get discounts at local reuse stores.
First Tuesday in August: National Night Out	Plan a low- or no-waste National Night Out event in your neighborhood. Provide recycling and organics recycling containers for event attendees.	Back to school	Go green when you go back to school. Use supplies you already have at home before going back-to-school shopping. Shop reuse stores for school supplies and clothing and pack low- or no-waste lunches.
Recycling on the go	Recycle everywhere you go by looking for recycling containers and asking if you don't see one. Collect recycling while camping, at summer barbeques or picnics, etc.	October 31: Halloween	Plan a costume swap party where people can trade old or unwanted costumes, or shop at a reuse store for your costume. Remember to compost pumpkins.
		First Sunday in November: Daylight savings	Conserve energy while you fall back. Ideas include conducting a home energy audit or converting to renewable energy.
Aquatic invasive species	Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by cleaning, draining and drying watercraft when entering and exiting water bodies.	November 15: America Recycles Day	Review all the items you can recycle, and make sure you are recycling all you can everywhere you can.
		Yard and lawn preparation	Properly dispose of yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves. Ask your waste hauler about a yard waste pick-up service or bring yard waste to a drop-off site.
Air quality	Sign up for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's air quality alerts and take appropriate action during alerts, such as limiting driving, mowing the lawn, and backyard bonfires.	Fourth Thursday in November: Thanksgiving	Reduce food waste when celebrating Thanksgiving by planning meals in advance to avoid food going in the trash, understand date labels on food to use up food you already have in the cupboard before heading to the store, and giving leftover food to guests.

Free resources and recommended websites

Visit www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation or call 612-348-4168 to find out more about free handouts, literature, articles, learning trunks, displays and tours available through Hennepin County.

These organizations offer free environmental education information and resources:

- Hennepin County Environment and Energy
www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation
- RethinkRecycling
www.RethinkRecycling.com
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
www.pca.state.mn.us, go to Living Green, Resource Center
- SEEK: Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge
www.seek.state.mn.us