



**You are about to embark on the Earth Day Action Quest in celebration of Earth Day.**

Earth Day is a day for the global community to come together around our shared planet – together, we can change the world! Activities you find here will help you reduce your impact on the Earth and be a better steward of resources. Complete at least three activities to be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Visa Gift Card\*. The final day of the Earth Day Action Quest is April 30th. Happy trails!

**Reduce**

**Waste Audit**

Keep track of everything you throw in the trash today. At the end of the day, look at what you threw away. Are there choices you could make to reduce how much you throw away? Reducing waste is important in creating a sustainable future. Try these easy swaps to reduce your waste!

**Paper towels:** Keep a stack of washable cloth rags to use instead – cutting up old t-shirts works great.

**Chip bags and packaging:** Buying individual bags or portions? Buying bulk is more cost effective and generates less packaging. Create your own servings with reusable containers. Plastic sandwich bags and wrap: Consider a reusable container.

**Coffee pods:** Single-serve coffee pods are convenient but can be very wasteful. Instead, try reusable pods and bulk coffee.

**Food: Too Good to Waste**

Learn how to store your food so that it lasts longest. As a proud agricultural state, Minnesotans know the hard work and resources that go into growing food. That's why we want to make sure food gets eaten and doesn't go to waste! When we throw away food, we waste money and all the resources it took to grow, ship and keep that food fresh. [Click here for food saving tips.](#)

**Express Thanks**

Thank a favorite restaurant for its green practices, such as offering reusable dishes or using sustainable ingredients. This thank you can be in person in an online review.

**Reuse**

**Repair**

Instead of tossing out broken items, challenge yourself to fix them instead. You'll save money and feel handy. Join [Ramsey](#) and [Washington](#) county Fix-it Clinic volunteers as they demonstrate simple repairs and maintenance of everyday items in our repair video series. Didn't find what you were looking for? Check out [ifixit.com](#) and [youtube.com](#) for more helpful tutorials on how to fix common items!

**Product Reuse**

Did you know that both counties have spaces where you can get free products such as paints, stains, automotive fluids, and household cleaners? When people bring these items to household hazardous waste sites, products in good condition are made available for free to residents. Come browse the shelves and see what you find! Information on Ramsey County's Product Reuse Center is available [here](#), and information on Washington County's Free Product Room is available [here](#).

**Donate**

Donate your time, skills, gently used items, food and more. Donating to and buying from thrift stores is one of the best ways to reduce consumption. Donating your time by volunteering at a food shelf or by cleaning up a natural area near you are great ways to support your community and protect your local environment.

**Recycle**

**Sort it Out**

Recycle only items that are accepted by your hauler. When people put items in their recycling carts or dumpsters that don't belong there, it causes problems for the workers at recycling facilities. Test your knowledge by playing the [Know What to Throw game!](#) Note: Some haulers accept different materials. Check with your hauler for information on what materials can/cannot go in your recycling bin.

**Be a Battery Hero!**

Batteries can cause fires when they end up in the trash or recycling. Bring them to the [Ramsey County year-round](#) collection site or the [Washington County Environmental Center](#) or another [Call2Recycle](#) location.

**Material Recovery Facility**

MRF stands for "materials recovery facility," which is where the items in your recycling bin go to be sorted for recycling. Check out what happens at Shakopee's [Dem-Con MRF](#) and prepare to be amazed.

**Household Hazardous Waste**

Dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) at a drop-off location near you. HHW includes materials like household cleaners, paints, paint thinners, batteries, motor oils and pesticides. When not disposed of properly, HHW can pose a threat to human health and the environment. In Washington County, take your HHW to the [Washington County Environmental Center](#). In Ramsey County, take it to the [year-round collection site](#).

**Food Scraps**

Start collecting food scraps. You can compost food scraps in your yard or drop them off at a county drop-off site so that they can be turned back into nutrient-rich soil! Ramsey County residents, [click here](#) to get started. Washington County residents, [click here](#).

**Adventure**

**Take the Lead Out**

Exchange your lead fishing tackle for a non-lead tackle. Tackle made from lead can poison loons, eagles and other wildlife if ingested. If you're not sure if your tackle is made of lead, try rubbing the tackle on a piece of paper. If it leaves a streak, then it's likely lead. Exchange your fishing tackle for free at the [Ramsey County year-round collection site](#) or the [Washington County Environmental Center](#).

**Find it at Your Local Library**

Read a book about nature – plants, animals, climate, landscapes! Read a book from home or borrow one for free through your public library. Visit your library's website to get started. Find Ramsey County library locations [here](#) and Washington County libraries [here](#).

**R&E Center Virtual Tour**

Take a virtual tour of the Ramsey/ Washington Recycling & Energy Center [here](#). All trash generated by residents and businesses in Ramsey and Washington counties is delivered to the R&E Center in Newport where it is processed to recover value. Processing trash also keeps it out of landfills. Can you find the control room on your tour?

**Parks, Parks, Parks!**

Explore one of the 24 regional and county parks in your own backyard! Find info on Ramsey County parks [here](#) and Washington County parks [here](#).

**Medicine Drop Box**

Clean out your medicine cabinet and dispose of your unwanted and expired medicines. Don't throw them in the garbage or flush them down the toilet. Bring them to a free collection site in [Ramsey County](#) or [Washington County](#) and you will help protect our environment, while preventing crime, drug abuse, and accidental poisoning.

