

Press Release

Thursday, October 29, 2009

New Holiday Recycling Program Announced

The "Recycle Your Holidays" Program allows individuals to recycle old, unsafe, and non-working light strings and extension cords throughout Mankato.

MANKATO - It's that time of year again, when masses of tangled light strings are discovered in boxes of holiday decorations. If they're tangled to the point of no return, there wasn't a way to recycle them - until now.

Unwanted and non-working light strings and old extension cords are now recyclable in Greater Mankato. The "Recycle Your Holidays" program is sponsored by the same group that brought the popular away-from-home recycling program "Message in a Bottle" to area convenience stores and car washes in the Mankato area.

Bins with the familiar "Recycle More in Greater Mankato" logo will be placed at businesses, churches and schools. Clients and staff from MRCI WorkSource will collect the strings, remove the light bulbs, and recycle all of the materials.

"This is yet another wonderful opportunity for people to recycle unwanted items, while providing our clients an enjoyable community employment experience," said Linda Leiding, Senior Vice President of Programs at MRCI WorkSource. "The Recycle Your Holidays program also allows our workers to give back to the community by helping operate this recycling program."

Jean Lundquist, the Blue Earth County Recycling Coordinator, said the Recycling Your Holidays program provides a valuable recycling service to area residents.

"This is a great, new way to preserve resources through recycling, rather than wasting resources," said Lundquist. "It's also an opportunity for people to purchase energy-efficient light strings to replace the old ones."

Recycle Your Holidays is a program developed by the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM). RAM Executive Director Ellen Telander, said the local program is the second of its kind in the nation.

"The first program is located in Hutchinson, and we were amazed at how many strings of lights we kept out of the landfill," said Telander. "We expect even more lights collected in Mankato."

Any business interested in having a bin to collect light strings and extension cords can contact MRCI Recycling Coordinator Tammi Leiferman at (507) 386-5799 or MRCI Support Employment Specialist Jackie Pemble (507) 386-5673. Bins will be distributed, and collections will start in November. Also, look for the boxes at Holiday by the River on November 27th.

Sponsors include: MRCI WorkSource, Pepsi-Cola of Mankato, Blue Earth County, Radio Mankato, Recycling Association of MN, LJP Waste and Recycle, with additional support from participating Touchstone locations, including Benco in Mankato.

*For additional information,
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