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The holiday season is officially upon us. For many of us that means donning the house, porch, shrubs and trees with holiday lights. When your old lights do not turn on, there is a solution. The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) in partnership with WCCO and ACE Hardware and Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTS) announces the fifth annual launch of "Recycle Your Holidays™," the only statewide holiday light recycling program beginning every year on America Recycles Day, November 15, and lasting throughout the holiday season.

"Recycle Your Holidays™ recycles every part of the light strings. Even the little lights are recycled by project partner Green Lights Recycling," stated Maggie Mattacola, director of RAM. "This year our goal is to recycle 100,000 light strands and to encourage more Minnesotans to make the change to energy efficient LED light strands."

Reduce waste this year by dropping off old, broken holiday lights at any participating location during the holiday season. Find out where you can recycle your holiday lights with an interactive map on RAM's website at RecycleMinnesota.org. If you don't see a location near you, be sure to check the website again later as more sites are added throughout the holiday season.

Unlike any other holiday lights recycling program in the country, this program recycles every part of the light strand. The lights are collected and sorted by vocational centers throughout Minnesota, which employ individuals with disabilities.

"According to the Department of Energy, running LED holiday lights on one 6-foot tree for 12 hours per day for 40 days can save 90% or more energy when compared to traditional incandescent holiday lights. Last year, Recycle Your Holidays™ has recycled more than 130,000 pounds of lights, which amounts to a lot of energy savings when many are being replaced with LED holiday lighting."

The program provides free recycling of holiday lights, free recycling bins with signs and free pick up service to any organization, government office, business or school. All are welcome to participate as a drop-off location. To sign up online, visit the RAM website at RecycleMinnesota.org. The program can also recycle any type of electrical cord such as telephone cords and damaged extension cords.

For more information about Recycle Your Holidays™ or to sign up to participate as a collection site, visit RecycleMinnesota.org.

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About RAM: The Recycling Association of Minnesota RAM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with more than 250 members from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. RAM is the Minnesota affiliate of the National Recycling Coalition and Keep America Beautiful. RAM is committed to promoting resource conservation through waste prevention, reuse, recycling, composting and purchasing practices using the most cost effective and environmentally sound methods available in Minnesota.