



Recycle Your Holidays™ is back

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Recycle Your Holidays™ is back
Unique statewide holiday light recycling program with a bright goal

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Winter is officially here and with it comes decorating for the holiday season. But what to do with that tangled clump of holiday lights? Most people just throw them in the trash...well not anymore! The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) in partnership with WCCO TV, Xcel Energy, Ace Hardware Stores and CERTS announces the second annual launch of "Recycle Your Holidays™," a first-of-its-kind statewide holiday light recycling program lasting throughout the holiday season.

"Recycle Your Holidays recycles every part of the light strings. Even the little lights are recycled by another project partner Green Lights Recycling." stated Ellen Telander, Executive Director of RAM. "Our goal last year was to recycle 50,000 pounds of lights which we more than doubled! This year our goal is to recycle over 200,000 light strands and to encourage Minnesotans to use LED light strands instead, which will save a lot of energy."

Recycle Your Holidays™ is a unique grass-roots program of The Recycling Association of Minnesota. This year's program partners are working with many businesses and public organizations throughout the state to recycle holiday lights, educate Minnesotans about recycling, increase the statewide use of energy efficient LED lights, and provide meaningful jobs for adults with disabilities through local vocational centers like MSOCS in Duluth, MN.

Minnesotans are encouraged to drop off their old, broken holiday lights at any participating location during the holiday season. Local Ely locations include: Merhar's ACE Hardware and the Northwoods Transfer station. RAM is making it easier than ever to find out where you can recycle your holiday lights with interactive maps on their website at www.recycleminnesota.org.

Unlike any other holiday lights recycling program in the country, RAM will recycle all lights and cords free of charge by working with local vocational centers that provide meaningful jobs and job training for adults with disabilities. Another great added benefit is the reduction of waste

going to landfills- which helps keep our air and water cleaner.

"It's a great time to clear out your old holiday lights and electrical cords. The Recycle Your Holidays program keeps resources like aluminum and copper, glass and plastics out of our landfill, while providing jobs here in Minnesota," commented Mary McReynolds with St. Louis County.

For more information about Recycle Your Holidays™, the statewide effort to recycle holiday lights, visit: www.recycleminnesota.org.

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About RAM: The Recycling Association of Minnesota RAM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with more than 200 members from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. RAM is the Minnesota affiliate of the National Recycling Coalition. 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. RAM is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

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