



2022 Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Program

About the Program

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is a nonprofit dedicated to increasing recycling in Minnesota to improve the social and economic health of our citizens, businesses, institutions and future generations. Each spring, we (the Recycling Association of Minnesota) partner with Soil and Water Conservation Districts, local governments, watershed districts, nonprofits, and other organizations to provide rain barrels and compost bins made from recycled milk jugs and other plastic resins at low cost to Minnesota residents. We believe this program fits our mission and makes a meaningful impact.

Products available include the Rain Catcher Rain Barrel and a Compost Bin. The rain barrel is \$90 + tax. The compost bin is \$76 + tax.

How does it work?

Typically, our distribution partners (you) will pick a location and date to host a distribution event, RAM will coordinate the order and delivery of product to your site, as well as handle all the customer purchases online. More details and expectations are below.

Alternatively, you can place an invoiced order, where you purchase the product directly from RAM and manage the sales independently.

To sign up as a distribution partner or place an invoiced order, please [click here](#) and complete the form by **December 23rd**

Benefits of participating in our program include

- Encourages and promotes rain water collection and organics recycling
- Educates residents on waste reduction best management practices
- Closes the loop on recycling by promotion and use of recycled products
- Engage in direct communication with residents of your district
- Offers tangible items to residents of your community
- RAM handles all the financial transactions so you don't have to (unless you prefer to manage your sales independently)!

Delivery Minimums

The minimums below are necessary to have the product delivered to your site. If you want fewer than the minimum, it will need to be picked up from RAM at the WestRock site in St. Paul. *Another option:* contact your nearby colleagues and combine your orders to meet the minimum!

Rain barrel delivery minimum: 72 barrels (6 pallets)

Compost bin delivery minimum: 54 bins (3 pallets)

Expectations of Distribution Partner

- Select a distribution date and location (coordinating with existing tree sale, educational programs or other events is a plus)
- Provide a discount for compost bins and rain barrels to your community members, if funding allows (highly encouraged)
- Promote sale through newsletter, social media, etc.
- Coordinate and communicate details for distribution event internally
- Organize staff or volunteers to help with distribution event **NEW**
- Must have flexibility around delivery date and ability to store products onsite leading up to event
- Must facilitate unloading of delivery utilizing loading dock, forklift and/or pallet jacks
- Dispose of pallets, cardboard and pallet wrap from the product delivery **NEW**
- Provide an alternative pick-up arrangement for customer no-shows (highly recommended)
- Must take possession of and pay for any unsold product after the event

Expectations of RAM

- Provide partners with current information on products, prices, order minimums, dates and other sale procedures
- Place the order(s) and organize delivery logistics with the rain barrel manufacturer and the compost bin regional sales coordinator
- Manage online sales of product(s) according to specifications entered in the order form
- Advertise sale through RAM's website, social media and email lists
- Answer inquiries and address issues with customers
- Provide partners with a complete list of customers the day prior to the distribution event
- Connect partners with volunteer organizations like Freshwater, Master Gardener/Recycler/Gardener programs (where available) to request volunteers, if desired
- Send text message reminders to customers the day before their pickup date **NEW**

Timeline:

November-December:

- Partners sign up for the spring sale by providing product amounts and other details to RAM

January-February:

- RAM submits all orders to the manufacturers and works with them to coordinate transportation logistics
- Partners finalize pickup event dates, if not done already
- RAM builds out the online sales platform

March:

- RAM opens online sales, handles all financial transactions March 1
- Partners advertise the sale to their community
- RAM advertises the sale to our community

April-May:

- Partners should hear from trucking companies regarding delivery logistics a few days prior to delivery date
- RAM works with manufacturers and partners to confirm deliveries

April-June:

- RAM sends partners the list of customer names and amounts for their pickup location
- Partners staff pickup events
- RAM is on-call during pickup events in case there are order questions
- RAM contacts no-show customers with alternative pickup option (if available)

June:

- RAM invoices any partners that gave discounts to residents

If you have questions, or for more information please contact Courtney Selstad at courtney@recycleminnesota.org or 952-457-1735.