

# REC Organics Recycling Calendar Topics for Statewide Education plan for 2023

## Main Themes

= Primary

= Secondary



NO SHREDDED PAPER



NO GLASS



NO PLASTIC-COATED PAPER



NO CONDIMENT PACKETS



NO DIAPERS

[Links to all articles and images for all topics via Drop Box.](#)

January	February	March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Christmas Trees &amp; Wreaths</u></b> Remove wires, lights, and decorations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Sneaky Contaminants</u></b> Anything plastic! Look out for candy wrappers, produce stickers, twist ties, straws, plastic labels, packaged foods, or any traditionally accepted recycling items.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>What are Organics and What is Accepted?</u></b> Focus on food scraps – composting's bread and butter! Uncoated, non-recyclable paper (think napkins) BPI or bust – Compostable foodservice products must be certified by BPI</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>How to start: Where do I bring organics?</u></b> Curbside collection Drop-site availability <a href="http://Findacomposter.com">Findacomposter.com</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Cut Flowers</u></b> Remove ribbons, rubber bands, plastic sleeves, packets of floral food, or any other non-vegetative materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Buy BPI</u></b> Look for BPI Logo when buying compostable products.</li> </ul>
April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Spring Cleaning</u></b> No floor sweepings/vacuum contents or dryer lint - Why? Deep freezer cleaning – no boxes and bags!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>International Compost Awareness Week</u></b> Spring Plate-to-Garden event Purchase compost for your yard/garden to continue the cycle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Event organics recycling and zero waste events</u></b> Mix of disposable, reusable, recyclable, and compostable products create confusion Properly label collection bins (color coding with images) Recruit volunteers to monitor bins</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Benefits of Compost for Soil</u></b> Water retention, organic matter, nutrient content, disease resistance, less irrigation and fertilizers Buy compost from <a href="#">STA vendors</a> to prevent the spread of invasive plants and pests Feedstocks: You get out what you put in.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Watch for Imposters</u></b> Fool me twice, shame on me! <i>Watch out for claims such as: Made from plants, bio/oxo/marine degradable, sustainably managed and sourced, etc.</i> <i>Compostable products must have the BPI certification label to be accepted at MN compost facilities.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Buy in Bulk</u></b> Individual condiment packets and chip bags cost more and increases chances of contamination</li> </ul>

# REC Organics Recycling Calendar Topics for Statewide Education plan for 2023

July	August	September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>PFAS and Micro-plastics</u></b> Fast-food wrappers and molded fiber products may contain PFAS Micro-plastics from plastic-coated paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Environmental Benefits of Organics Recycling</u></b> Saves space in landfills Reduces greenhouse gas emissions Creates an environmentally beneficial commodity out of a waste product</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>School organics collection</u></b> Encourage reusable trays over compostable trays and compostable trays over Styrofoam. Milk cartons are not compostable Bin monitoring reduces likelihood of contamination</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Traditional recycling is not organics recycling</u></b> If it goes into your single sort recycling, never place it in your organics recycling. (metal, plastic, glass bottles, paper, cardboard, cans or containers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Pet Waste, Bedding and Litter</u></b> Put it where it belongs. In the Trash!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Troubleshooting Tips for Organics Recycling</u></b> Counter/small floor organics bin options and maintenance. To use or not to use bags Fruit fly prevention Odor prevention – keep it cool and dry</li> </ul>
October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>What to do with leaves?</u></b> Yard waste and organics can't mix in your cart or at drop sites Composters like to use their own 'recipe' Takes up valuable capacity (if any organics is mixed with yard waste, it all must be managed as organics) <a href="http://Findacomposter.com">Findacomposter.com</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Preventing food waste over the holidays</u></b> Use the Guestimator tool for meal planning at your gatherings <a href="http://SaveTheFood.com">SaveTheFood.com</a> No cooking oil (trace amounts ok)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Recycling organics year-round.</u></b> Food scraps are created year-round. Composting doesn't stop in the winter, so keep diverting those food scraps</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Pumpkins/Jack-O-Lanterns</u></b> Remove all decorations (paint, candles, etc.) prior to disposal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Invasive Plants and Insects</u></b> Invasive pests such as Emerald Ash Borer, Jumping Worms, and others can be eliminated with proper composting methods and best practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Clothing, Fabric or Textiles</u></b> Don't place in the organics please! Reuse, re-purpose, refurbish or return to a textile recycler (not in the bin though!)</li> </ul>

**Primary - Messaging that should take priority for that month**

**Secondary - Messaging that could be run in addition to the primary messaging for that month**

**Refer to 2023 Recycling Calendar for monthly messaging related to recycling**

**Share your organizations images and messages that others may use on DropBox.**