



SUSTAIN the effort

EUROPE

USA

the USA produces

40% MORE WASTE

than all of Europe*

Let's Rethink, Reduce, and Reuse

TIP 1: PURCHASES

Ask yourself...

- Can I buy this local?
- What is its lifespan?
- What is the best quality I can afford?
- Can I borrow this?
- How will it be disposed of eventually?

TIP 2: FRESH FOODS

Only buy what you need

TIP 3: DRY FOODS

Buy these in bulk

TIP 4: PRESERVE FOODS

Freeze, pickle, dry, can, ferment, cure, and juice

7
MORE QUICK
TIPS ON BACK

* In 2021, the population of the USA was about 332 million compared to 747.8 million in Europe

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AIR

Turn the pile once a week to speed things up. Chop materials so they break down quicker.

WATER

Keep your compost as moist as a wrung-out sponge.

GREENS

Nitrogen-rich, moist materials such as grass, fruits, vegetables, and grains.

BROWNS

Carbon-rich, dry materials like leaves, twigs, paper products and sawdust.

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RECYCLABLES SHOULD BE RINSED & DRY.

ALUMINUM & METAL

Food or beverage cans & lids. No need to crush cans. Small items are difficult to process.

GLASS

Bottles & jars. Separate metal or plastic lids in recycling.

PLASTICS #1-7

Bottles, jugs, jars, & food tubs. Put plastic caps back on. No stretchy plastics (such as store bags). Refer to the back of this card for disposal locations.

PAPER

Mail, envelopes, office paper, food cartons, & flattened cardboard. No used plates, napkins, cups, towels, etc. Compost these!



With a small amount of effort, you can cut your waste, save money, while helping take some pressure off the environment.

Organics reduction and recycling protects the environment and public health.

25% of all greenhouse gas emissions come from landfills.*

Organic waste that ends up in our landfills produces methane which is a greenhouse gas **28x more potent than carbon dioxide.***

FUN FACT: We printed our posters on 100% recycled paper!



75% of American waste can be recycled, but only 30% is actually recycled!*

What should we do?

The solution starts with the way we purchase. Over-buying and stockpiling can lead to unnecessary waste and disposal problems.

REDUCE YOUR ORGANIC WASTE

- **Repurpose Your Food Scraps**
 - » Make smoothies with produce approaching its end of life
 - » Use leftovers to make soups
 - » Replant roots from lettuces, onions, celery and other veggies
- **Organize Your Refrigerator**
 - » What needs to be eaten first? Place those items in front
 - » Use glass containers for leftovers
 - » Store food groups together so they are easy to find
 - » Share extras with others

Let's rethink our habits together.

Cut along the dotted lines and place these "Tips & Tricks" signs in the area you use for sorting recyclables and organic waste for compost.



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HOW TO PREPARE YOUR RECYCLABLES

- Dispose of recycling loosely in the container (*Not in bags*)
- Empty then rinse off all food residue
- Labels do not have to be removed
- No need to crush cans or plastic bottles (*Small items are difficult to process*)

COMMON MISTAKES

Combined Materials:

Separate metal lids from glass jars, remove liners from boxes and trays

- ✓ Padded envelopes made of the same materials can be recycled
- ✓ Paper inside + paper outside
- ✓ Plastic inside + plastic outside (*Sort with your plastic bags*)
- ✗ Plastic inside + paper outside
- ✗ Styrofoam, food containers, pizza boxes with food residue

WHAT NOT TO PUT IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN

- ✗ **No plastic bags, packaging, or film in curbside recycling**
 - » The stretchy kind of plastic bags and film **can be recycled at your local grocery store, Target, or Walmart.**
Example bags: grocery, zip-lock, bread, dry cleaning, along with bubble wrap, mailing envelopes, film wrap from water bottles, toilet paper, paper towels
- ✗ **No used paper plates, napkins, cups, towels, etc. (can be composted)**
- ✗ **No organic yard waste or food waste (can be composted)**

OTHER WAYS TO RECYCLE

- Visit the county's recycling website: SCWI.gov/Recycling
- County collection events for appliances, electronics, tires and hazardous waste
- A-Z Recycling & Disposal Guide: for items that cannot go into curbside bins
- Follow St. Croix County Recycling on Facebook

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COMPOSTING IS GREAT FOR YOUR GARDEN & LAWN

25-30% of landfill waste is organics that could instead be composted and used in farms and gardens. Composting saves resources, protects the planet, saves landfill space and returns valuable material to productive use.

TO FEED THE SOIL, FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS

- Collect kitchen scraps
- Buy or build a compost bin with a cover
- Sit back and let the organics decompose in its own time with no effort at all
- Pat yourself on the back for keeping organic waste out of the landfill

WHAT CAN I DO WITH FINISHED COMPOST?

- Add to lawns and gardens to improve soil structure & health
- Use as mulch to reduce weeds, prevent erosion and maintain moisture

RECIPE FOR GARDEN COMPOST

A basic compost pile needs only four ingredients:

- 1. Browns** are carbon-rich, dry materials like leaves, twigs, paper products and sawdust
 - 2. Greens** are nitrogen-rich, moist materials like grass, fruits, vegetables, and grains
 - 3. Water** as needed to maintain moisture balance. Keep compost as moist as a wrung-out sponge
 - 4. Air** by turning the pile once a week to speed things up. Chop materials so they break down quicker
- ✗ **Animal by-products are NOT recommended (meat, fish, bones, dairy, oils)**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

- For information on how to set up a home-compost system, visit: DNR.Wisconsin.gov/Topic/Recycling/Compost.html
- "Garbage to Garden" compost poster: DNR.WI.gov/files/PDF/pubs/wa/wa1528.pdf

