



Sustainable Saint Paul Briefings

March 2014

The Sustainable Saint Paul Briefings is intended to provide quick updates on sustainable initiatives and projects in the City of Saint Paul.



Upcoming Deadline: Nominations for the 2014 Sustainable Saint Paul Awards Due March 27



Time is running out to submit your nomination for the 2014 Sustainable Saint Paul Awards. The awards will be given to honor outstanding achievements of individuals, businesses and organizations that are protecting and restoring the environment in Saint Paul. If you know of a candidate, please take the time to nominate them before it's too late (you may nominate yourself or your organization).

[Nominate today!](#)

To see past winners or for more information on award categories, click [here](#). Questions? Email [Pa](#)

[Vang](#) or call 651-266-8533.

(Photo above: Clara Stahlmann Roeder - 2013 Winner of the Youth Leadership Award. From left to right: Councilmember Dan Bostrom, Clara Stahlmann Roeder, Mayor Chris Coleman)

Minnesota ranked 10th in nation with the most LEED-certified construction projects per capita in 2013

According to the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) recently released list, Minnesota has been named a leader in sustainable building projects. The USGBC is a nonprofit organization that advocates for sustainable building and created the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building certification program.



According to the USGBC, a total of 1,777 commercial and institutional construction projects were LEED-certified in the top 10 states in 2013, resulting in roughly 226.8 million square feet of space. Minnesota had 51 projects with a total of 8.21 million square feet of construction space, or 1.55 square feet certified per Minnesotan. Rankings are calculated by dividing square footage certified in 2013 by state population. See the USGBC infographic [here](#).

Saint Paul is proud to be home to several buildings that have been LEED certified in the past, some of which are listed below:

- Warren E. Burger Federal Court Building
- Gordon Parks High School
- Western District Police Station

- Lawson Commons
- Eastside Cub Foods
- The Penfield (*currently seeking certification*)

The City of Saint Paul continues to take proactive steps toward improving sustainability by encouraging green development through its Sustainable Saint Paul Building Policy. Click [here](#) to learn more about the policy.

Celebrate Earth Hour on Saturday, March 29 from 8:30 p.m. -9:30 p.m.



(Photo above: Minnesota State Capitol participating in Earth Hour)

In an effort to draw attention to global climate change and promote energy conservation, Saint Paul will join cities from across the world for Earth Hour 2014. Earth Hour is a global movement that encourages individuals, businesses and governments to take positive steps toward sustainability.

Local landmarks, business, organizations, residents, and others are encouraged to participate by turning off non-essential lights for the hour. Please send photos of your participation to the city's Earth Hour Team to be featured on our Earth Hour webpage: www.ci.stpaul.gov/earthhour.

Help beautify Saint Paul through community volunteering

Beautifying Saint Paul takes the work of the entire community. That's why the city hosts several great opportunities for individuals, families and groups to volunteer! Here are upcoming spring opportunities:

- Saturday, April 12 starting at 8:30 a.m. – 2014 Citywide Spring Cleanup
- Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. -11:30 a.m. – Planting and Pulling at Hidden Falls
- Saturday, May 17 starting at 8:30 a.m. – 2014 Arbor Month Celebration and Planting
- Saturday, May 24 from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. – Como Park Garlic Mustard Challenge

Sign up to participate today! Registration and details for each event available [here](#), along with other volunteer opportunities. You can also email [Ryanna Jackson](#) or call 651- 632-2411.

Don't miss this deal! Get a compost bin or rain barrel



Each spring Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) works with local businesses and governments to bring area residents affordable compost bins and rain barrels.

RAM is hosting a rain barrel and compost bin distribution event in Saint Paul on May 31 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Rock Tenn, 2250 Wabash Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55114.

Discounted compost bins (\$55) and rain barrels (\$69) will be available onsite for purchase. Residents may also pre-purchase these items [online](#) for in-person pickup at the event location on the day of the sale. **Click [here](#)** to download a fact sheet with details on the rain barrels and compost bins available.

Other sale events schedule in the metro area:

[April 25, 2014: City of Roseville](#)
[April 26, 2014: City of Minneapolis](#)
[May 3 & 5, 2014: City of St. Louis Park](#)
[May 16, 2014: City of Mankato](#)
[May 23, 2014: City of St. Cloud](#)
[June 14, 2014: City of Coon Rapids](#)

Questions? Click [here](#) for more information.



Recycling changes scheduled to start April 7

As announced by Mayor Chris Coleman last August, a number of initiatives to improve the recycling program in Saint Paul will begin shortly. A few of the program changes include increasing the types of plastics collected, as well as allowing recyclables to be co-mingled in the existing blue bins and carts, eliminating the need to sort materials. The new recycling changes will begin April 7. Mark your calendar. Learn more at stpaul.gov/recycle.

Keep the Draft Bikeways Plan comments coming!



In January, the City of Saint Paul's Public Works Department released a draft of the Citywide Bikeways Plan, a document that will dramatically influence the development of Saint Paul bicycle infrastructure. Many comments have been received already about the plan, but we want to hear from everyone. Click [here](#) to view the draft plan and learn about the multiple ways you can submit comments.

The city will gather public input through April 30. You can also subscribe to the city's biking newsletter [here](#).

Visit the Sustainable Saint Paul [website](#) for more updates. Questions? Email [Pa Vang](#) or call 651-266-8533.