



## Sustainable Saint Paul Briefings November 2014

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### Recycle your unwanted holiday lights



On November 15, Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM), in partnership with ACE Hardware stores, WCCO TV and many other partners, kicked off another season of collecting unwanted holiday lights. The program allows community members to dispose their old or non-working holiday lights at various locations throughout the state to be properly recycled. There is no cost to dropping off unwanted lights, and collections will last through the end of January. [Read more and/or access the interactive map](#) to find the drop-off locations nearest you.

Also, as you are thinking about the holidays, don't forget to check out these cool [Rethink Recycling](#) resources like planning guides, tips, case studies and much more to help make your next event a green gathering.

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### BizRecycling offers recycling assistance

State laws recently enacted require most metro area businesses, colleges and universities to begin or expand their recycling programs. BizRecycling, a joint effort between Ramsey and Washington Counties, has consultants who can assist organizations with designing and implementing a recycling and/or organics collection program free of charge. Organizations may also be eligible for up to \$10,000 in grants that can be used for bins, labels and even minor facility upgrades. Don't wait. Visit [LessTrash.com](#) and/or call 651-299-1199 to arrange for a free consultation.

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### Get your home certified through Energy Fit Homes<sup>SM</sup>



*Photo above: Courtesy of Energy Fit Homes*

Energy Fit Homes is the first residential certificate designed specifically for existing older homes that meet energy efficiency standards. If you are looking to sell your home, the certification has the potential for added resale value. It provides homebuyers with assurance that the home has reached a specific standard of energy efficiency, something that is becoming more important as more homebuyers consider the value of energy efficiency when purchasing a new home. Even if you're not selling your home, it provides peace of mind that you are doing the right thing for yourself, your family, and your environment.

Since February 2014, Energy Fit Homes has certified nearly 70 homes in the seven-county metro. There are over 10 certified Energy Fit Homes in both Minneapolis and St. Paul. Energy Fit Homes is managed by the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) in partnership with the Neighborhood Energy Connection (NEC), two Twin Cities based non-profit organizations.

For more information, learn more about the [program](#), call 651-789-5700, or email [danielleb@thenec.org](mailto:danielleb@thenec.org)

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## Public hearing set for Saint Paul Bicycle Plan

A public hearing has been set for the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan on December 5, 2014 at the Planning Commission meeting. The meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. in rooms 40A & B at City Hall, 15 West Kellogg Blvd. All are invited to attend and provide verbal testimony regarding the plan.

Written statements will be accepted through 4:30 p.m. on December 8, 2014 and may be submitted one of two ways: commenting through the [Open Saint Paul](#) online tool or emailing [reuben.collins@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:reuben.collins@ci.stpaul.mn.us).



After the public hearing, City staff will consider the provided testimony and make any necessary adjustments to the plan. The plan will then be submitted for final approval by the Transportation Committee, the Planning Commission, and the Saint Paul City Council. It is anticipated that the plan will be presented to the City Council in February 2015. Learn more about [biking in Saint Paul](#) and/or sign up for the [biking e-newsletter](#).

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## Sustainability features at CHS Field

The City of Saint Paul recently announced major sustainability initiatives that will be part of the new CHS Field. The ballpark will include ways to incorporate renewable energy and water management programs, putting the facility on track to be among the greenest of its kind in the nation. Two significant sustainability features include 300 solar panels that will be installed in the northeast portion of the ballpark, powering 12 percent of the facility, and a rainwater capture system that will help irrigate the field and flush the toilets, capturing an estimated 480,000 gallons of water each year.

The solar panel installation, mostly funded by a \$555,750 grant from Xcel Energy, is expected to generate 132,327 kWh per year. This installation will be one of the largest onsite solar panel arrays at a major sports stadium in the nation, and will save an average of \$22,400 in energy bills annually.

The rainwater capture system, funded by a \$100,000 Metropolitan Council grant and a portion of a \$325,000 Capitol Region Watershed District grant, will capture rainwater from the roof of the Green Line Operations and Maintenance Facility, which is located next to the ballpark. The water will be stored in a tank at the ballpark, filtered, and pumped into the playing field irrigation system and some of the toilets and urinals. This installation is expected to generate 86,000 flushes per year (10 percent of the ballpark's total flushes) and save \$1,600 in water bills annually.

The ballpark will also be connected to District Energy St. Paul's heating and cooling systems.

Read more about the [ballpark's sustainability features](#).

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