

green talk



Coming Soon! 2019 RITE of Spring

The 13th Annual RITE (Really into the Earth) of Spring will be held on **Saturday, April 27th, 2019** between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Mahtomedi Wildwood Elementary School located at 8698 75th Street (just east of the High School tennis courts and baseball fields). This FREE family friendly event is sponsored by the City of Mahtomedi, Mahtomedi Community Education, and community volunteers.

Again this year, the Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment will be hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Event from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Accepted free of charge from households only — no businesses). Proof of residency required.

Watch the next City newsletter for further information about this free family friendly event.

Mahtomedi Area Solar Co-op the Largest in Minnesota

Enrollment has closed for this year's Mahtomedi Area Solar Co-op with 76 participants. It is by far the largest Solar United Neighbors co-op in Minnesota! Thanks to everyone that signed up and helped get the word out about this great opportunity to significantly increase clean and green energy in our community. Several co-op participants have already signed contracts with All Energy Solar, which was selected by co-op members through a competitive process. If you are still considering solar for your residence, Solar United Neighbors may offer another Mahtomedi Area co-op sign-up next year. However, if you don't want to wait, please contact All Energy Solar at **651-350-1850**.



A BIG Thank You for Extra Efforts in Recycling!

The City would like to send a special thank you to the **Lund Family on Ashley Lane** and the **Meyer Family on Eastgate Parkway** for their extra efforts in recycling. Keep up the good work! For their extra effort, these families may stop in at City Hall and pick up a free Reduce, Reuse, Recycle water bottle. Each quarter we will pick two families to acknowledge.

Recycle More

Not everything can be conveniently recycled at home. Consider this option to recycle more.

DONATE – Did you know that the average person throws away 70 pounds of clothing and other textiles each year? Donating reusable items to charitable organizations is a great way to reduce waste and help your community. You can donate clothing, toys, sporting goods, books, music and more.

Search by item to find a donation opportunity near you at www.recyclesearch.com/wcdd



RETHINK RECYCLING

Provided by the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board

Recycling Tips and Myths

Here are a few of the common questions and comments we hear from residents.

Recycling is too much work.

Actually, recycling is easier than it used to be. You don't have to remove labels on cans or bottles. Plus, more material is now recyclable. Another good tip is to place your recycling container next to your garbage container to make recycling convenient.

I don't generate enough recycling to make a difference.

You may be surprised — even in a single person household the amount of material that could have been recycled can quickly add up. About 1/3 of what is thrown away could be recycled.

Why recycle? It just gets thrown away anyway.

It is against state law for haulers to pick up recyclables and not recycle them. It is also against the law for a landfill or resource recovery facility to accept a load of recyclables. Recyclables are in demand.

GreenStep City

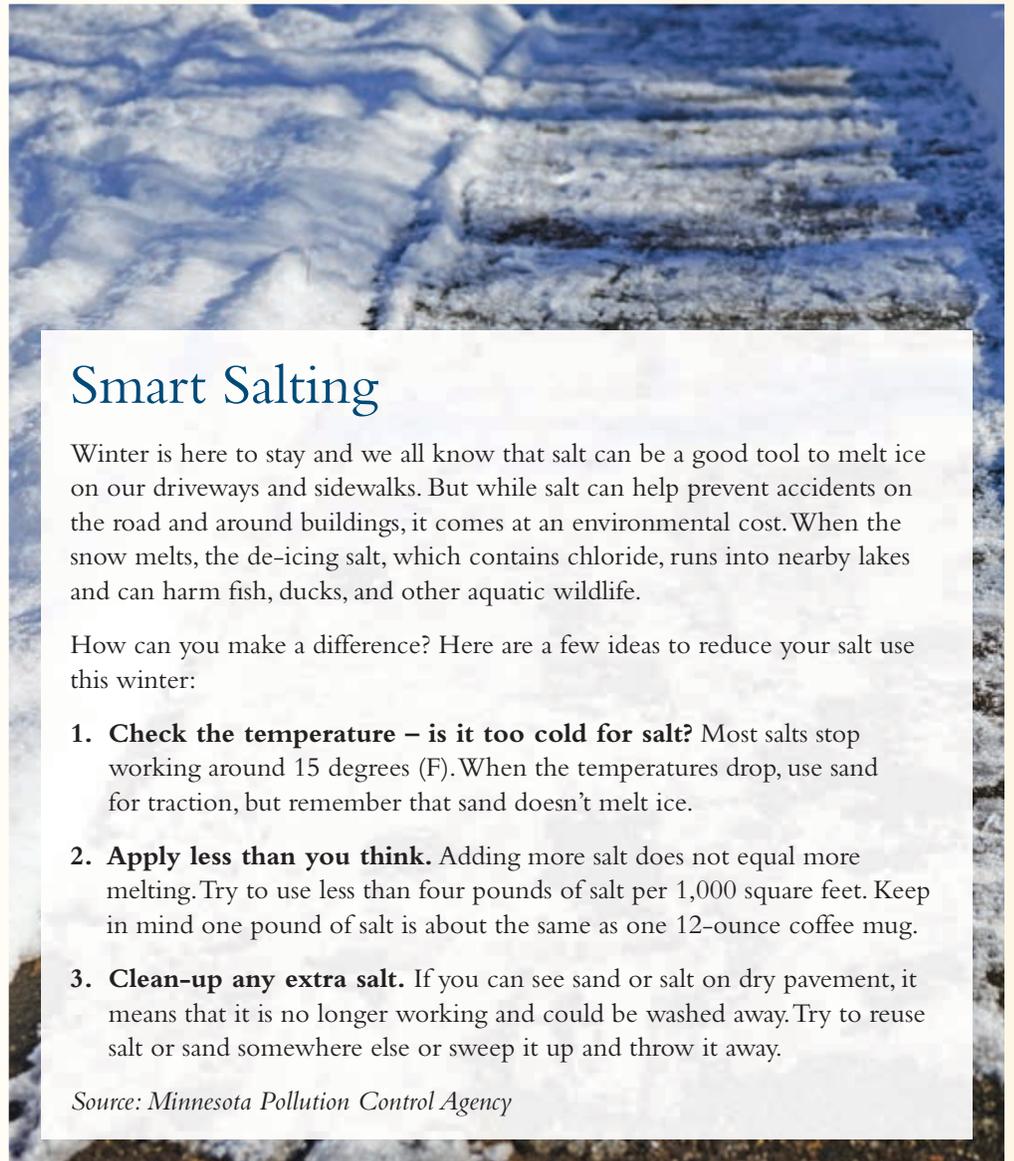
You may have noticed the new GreenStep City signs that now accompany the Mahtomedi sign at the various entrances to the city. What exactly is a GreenStep City and what does it mean?

The GreenStep Cities program is a voluntary challenge and recognition program focused on energy conservation and reduction across several areas, including building and lightings, land use, transportation, wastewater, water quality, and parks and trails. The free program is managed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in conjunction with several nonprofit partners. The program consists of five steps and requires cities to take actions across 29 "Best Practices" areas.



Mahtomedi joined the program in October 2010 and achieved Step Three recognition in June 2014. Examples of actions taken by the city to achieve Step Three designation include: adopting a watering ordinance, reducing the salt used by Public Works, becoming certified as a Tree City USA, adopting sustainable purchasing practices, and adopting an ordinance that allows solar rooftop solar units as accessory uses in all zoning districts.

The city is in the process of achieving Step Four designation, expected for June 2019. Step Four designation involves gathering and reporting data on several core metrics as well as three optional metrics. Step Five designation occurs when annual improvement is demonstrated for three metrics of the city's choice. Participation in the GreenStep Cities program is one of several ways the city is working toward a sustainable future for Mahtomedi.



Smart Salting

Winter is here to stay and we all know that salt can be a good tool to melt ice on our driveways and sidewalks. But while salt can help prevent accidents on the road and around buildings, it comes at an environmental cost. When the snow melts, the de-icing salt, which contains chloride, runs into nearby lakes and can harm fish, ducks, and other aquatic wildlife.

How can you make a difference? Here are a few ideas to reduce your salt use this winter:

- 1. Check the temperature – is it too cold for salt?** Most salts stop working around 15 degrees (F). When the temperatures drop, use sand for traction, but remember that sand doesn't melt ice.
- 2. Apply less than you think.** Adding more salt does not equal more melting. Try to use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. Keep in mind one pound of salt is about the same as one 12-ounce coffee mug.
- 3. Clean-up any extra salt.** If you can see sand or salt on dry pavement, it means that it is no longer working and could be washed away. Try to reuse salt or sand somewhere else or sweep it up and throw it away.

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency