

green talk



Mahtomedi Recognized for Environmental Sustainability Efforts

GreenStep City recognized for work to conserve resources and reduce waste

The City of Mahtomedi received an award for advancing to become a Step 4 city in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program at the League of Minnesota Cities annual conference on June 27th.

“This recognition shows community members and other cities across Minnesota that the City of Mahtomedi is taking great steps in the direction of energy and resource conservation and innovation,” shared Scott Neilson, City Administrator and GreenStep program lead with Mahtomedi.

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a challenge, assistance, and recognition program. As one of 127 participating cities and tribal nations, the City of Mahtomedi is helping to lead the way in sustainably across the state of Minnesota. The City of Mahtomedi has worked hard to implement best practices in order to fulfill their sustainability goals. Actions that are taken within the program focus on cost savings, energy use reduction, resource conservation, and the encouragement of civic innovation. You can learn more about Mahtomedi’s efforts at <http://mngreenstep.org>.

“This award is a great achievement for Mahtomedi,” said Mayor Judson Marshall of Mahtomedi. “And by being part of the program, Mahtomedi and our peers are helping to make Minnesota more resilient for the future while also helping our cities thrive economically.”

About GreenStep Cities: *Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance, and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. This free continuous improvement program is based upon 29 best practices that are tailored to Minnesota cities, focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, and encourage civic innovation. More at www.MnGreenStep.org.*



Pictured (left to right) are Councilmember Richard Brainerd, City Administrator Scott Neilson, and Councilmember Jeff Ledermann.



A BIG Thank You for Extra Efforts in Recycling!

The City would like to send a special thank you to the **Carson Family on Arcwood Road** and the **Baukol Family on Spruce Street** 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.

ATTENTION MAHTOMEDI UTILITY CUSTOMERS

FREE Payment and Billing Services

To view or pay utility bills, go to www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us or call **877-885-7968**. Pay now, schedule a payment or set up Auto-Pay. An email will be sent to you when your bill is ready. You may pay by credit card (MasterCard, Visa or Discover) or eCheck (payment from your checking or savings account). Please opt out of paper bills to help save money and be GREEN.

2019 ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

Fall One-Day Collection Events

One-day collection events for household hazardous waste and electronics are offered during the spring and fall. Paper shredding is offered at these events as well. No more than 4 boxes per customer will be accepted. Shredding capacity is limited by the size of the truck and may be reached before the end of the event.

These events are free and open to residents. No recyclables or business waste.

Forest Lake:

Forest Lake Transit Center
19987 Fitzgerald Trail N
(enter at Headwaters Pkwy)
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 7 & Saturday, Sept. 14

Hugo:

Public Works Building
6900 137th St. N
8 a.m. - Noon
Saturday, Oct. 12

Shredding Events at the Environmental Center

Bring your personal and confidential papers to the Environmental Center during a scheduled event. Documents will be shredded on-site by Shred Right and recycled. CDs, floppy disks, and other media will be accepted for off-site destruction.

Limit: 6 boxes weighing no more than 30 lbs. each. **These events are free and open to residents and businesses.**

Woodbury:

Environmental Center
4039 Cottage Grove Dr.
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 18 &
Wednesday, Nov. 6

For more information, visit
<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/604/Environmental-Center>

Yard Waste and Organics Sign-up

As part of the new five-year recycling contract with Waste Management, the City is offering residents the opportunity to opt-in and sign up for curbside weekly yard waste and organics collection.

Food products, plant materials, compostable service ware and soiled paper goods will all be accepted. Paper products commonly placed in the trash, including coffee filters, tea bags, tissues, paper towels, napkins and take-out containers, can be recycled. Yard waste material like leaves, grass clippings, brush, twigs and small branches can also be placed in the same bin for composting.

Residents will receive a separate bin to recycle these materials and can choose between 32, 64, and 96 gallon bins. The cost to participate is \$13.75 per month and will be charged on the quarterly utility bill. **The City must have a minimum of 100 residents sign-up in order for the collection service to begin.**

Sign up by visiting www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us, completing the form and submitting to the city in person or through email. This is an excellent opportunity for residents to easily reduce their household waste footprint and compost yard waste items without having to travel to a compost site. Questions can be directed to Mahtomedi City Hall at **651-426-3344**.



FALL LAWN CARE:

3 Steps to Take Right Now

Did you know that fall is the best time for lawn care? With its cooler temperatures and occasional rainfall, fall is the ideal time to prepare your lawn for next spring.

Keep on Mowing. Continue to water and mow your lawn, as needed. As the season draws to a close, drop the mower's blade to the lowest setting for the last two cuttings of the year. This allows sunlight to reach the crown of the grass and will encourage faster growth once spring returns.

Aerate the Soil. Aerating your lawn has many benefits. It helps to reduce compaction so that oxygen, water, and fertilizer can reach your lawn's roots. This is especially important to help your lawn soak in rainwater and nutrients while deepening turfgrass roots.

Rake the Leaves. It's important to remove fallen leaves from your lawn as soon as possible. Leaves left on the lawn can suffocate the grass and encourage fungal growth. Also, take a moment to sweep or rake leaves and grass clippings out of the street in front of your house. Left in the street, they can clog storm drains and become a major source of algae food in our local lakes and wetlands. Dispose of leaves and grass clippings by composting them in your yard or bring them to a designated drop-off site in Washington County.

