



Waste Wise e-News

A Tool for Environmental Sustainability Resources and Networking

May 3, 2011

LANDSCAPING

Lush, green grass, perfectly manicured and weed-free, trimmed shrubs and trees, and a care package that includes regular watering, fertilizers and pesticides, and attentive upkeep. This is long been considered the ideal lawn with anything less often viewed as untidy and unwelcoming. The trade-off for the traditional lawn unfortunately often comes with significant environmental impact that costs money.

Principles of Sustainable Landscaping

Elements of design and maintenance determine a sustainable landscape. A “naturalistic” design that makes ecological sense provides a stage for native plants, which provide better habitat than non-natives, require less care, as well as co-exist – and thrive – best within their native ecosystems. Sustainable landscapes require less maintenance, chemicals, watering and human involvement, saving businesses money over the traditional landscape. The additional money savings – and reduced environmental impact – of sustainable landscapes can also provide energy efficiency through shaded buildings, reduced water consumption, and erosion control through deeper root systems.

As summer quickly approaches, many businesses are preparing for the seasonal expenditures to maintain their green surroundings. Switching from traditional to sustainable landscaping, even for a portion of the green surroundings, will benefit the bottom line in decreased resource usage and less human intervention over time. Waste Wise encourages business in Minnesota to consider a sustainable landscape for surrounding green spaces. Track your cost savings and decreased resource usage starting from year one based on your annual projected budget. Take the challenge!

For more information on sustainable landscaping, visit the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website](#).

IN THE NEWS

“Recycling Turns Trash into Jobs”

Star Tribune, May 1

Click [here](#) for full story.

“Rock-Tenn Seeks Shareholder Approval in SSCC Merger”

Waste & Recycling News, April 28

Click [here](#) for full story.

EVENTS

“Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling Training”

Wednesday, May 4

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dunwoody College of Technology, Minneapolis

For more information, click [here](#).

“Health Care That’s Healthy”

Thursday/Friday, May 5-6

Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul

For more information, click [here](#).

SUCCESS STORY

Minnesota Waste Wise member [Murphy Warehouse Company](#) is a fourth-generation, family business, which is a supply chain logistics services company that operates more than 2,500,000 square feet of space, manages more than 150,000 truck and rail shipments, and employs 180 people. Murphy Warehouse is no stranger to being green. Since 1995, the company estimates it has saved more than \$780,000 through green initiatives and practices.

Among Murphy Warehouse's more recent green initiatives is an extensive project to reduce stormwater. This voluntary stormwater mitigation project began after the city began assessing stormwater fees to businesses based on the amount of impervious outdoor surface the business property occupied. Murphy's fees totaled \$68,000 annually. A solution to these fees and the underlying stormwater issue was to add subsurface piping, a retention basin, three rain gardens, and native prairie landscaping for quality and quantity control, plus roof/pipe storage for storm surge management. Outcomes of this project have included the elimination of the city annual stormwater fee and significantly lower costs in lawn maintenance – fertilizers, mowing and watering. In addition, the property has become an aesthetically pleasing, colorful site.

The project was a no-brainer for Richard Murphy, Jr. ASLA, president/CEO of the company. According to Murphy, *"Green projects do not have to be big to make a difference. Start small by replacing lighting which pays back in less than two years. Changing light bulbs will only take you so far. Also, look outside the building for places to go green and who knows, you might want to see if you are now paying a stormwater fee. If not, you will soon."* [Learn more](#) about Murphy Warehouse's green initiatives.

ENERGY SMART UPDATES

High-Efficiency Spray Valves Helping Minnesota Businesses Save Money

Energy Smart, a program of Minnesota Waste Wise, is working on a pilot initiative to help Minneapolis restaurants and food service businesses substantially reduce their energy and water use.

Partnering with the Clean Energy Resources Team and two other organizations, Energy Smart is providing restaurants along Minneapolis's Lake Street corridor complimentary high-efficiency pre-rinse spray valves. Commercial kitchens use spray valves to rinse food debris off dishes before they go in the dishwasher. Standard spray valves use three or four gallons of water per minute; high-efficiency models use less than 1.5 gallons.

The energy and water savings potential is substantial. A restaurant that uses a sprayer one hour a day can save roughly 30,000 gallons of hot water a year by replacing a standard spray valve with a high-efficiency model. That translates into an annual energy and water bill savings of nearly \$500 a year. You can learn more and watch a video about the initiative [here](#).

If you want more information about high-efficiency spray valves or have other energy-related questions, contact Energy Smart at (651) 292-4652.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to our new and renewing members:

PATRON

Carleton College (Northfield)

CORPORATE

Festival Foods (Vadnais Heights)

Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge (Cohasset)

SUPPORTER

C & L Distributing (Sauk Rapids)

City of Andover (Andover)

Detector Electronics Corp. (Bloomington)

Madden Resorts (Brainerd)

Minnesota Forest Industries (Duluth)

Minnesota Retailers Association (St. Paul)

Ocean Tech (Minneapolis)

Pictura Graphics (Golden Valley)

Savanna Pallets (McGregor)

Sojourner Farms (Minneapolis)

The Minnesota Chemical Company (St. Paul)

Tubtrugs (Oak Park Heights)

Viking Label & Packaging (Nisswa)

WIS-PAK Central, Inc. (North Mankato)

SPONSORSHIP AND ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Is your business interested in promoting its services to more than 1,000 businesses statewide? Would you like to position your business as a sustainability leader? For \$199, your business will become the sole sponsor of a monthly Waste Wise e-News edition to include premier logo placement and an advertisement. Contact Kate Worley at (651) 292-4662 or kworley@mnchamber.com to secure your sponsorship today!

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Not a member but would like to join? Want to take full advantage of your member benefits? Contact Kate Worley at (651) 292-4662 or kworley@mnchamber.com.

Disclosure: Waste Wise e-News is a tool to inform our members of current events or waste issues. The content of Waste Wise e-News is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Minnesota Waste Wise does not endorse any of the following waste services, organizations or events. Any such portrayal is unintentional by Minnesota Waste Wise.

Minnesota Waste Wise is a non-profit affiliate of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.