

St. Louis Park Community Open House Zero Waste Event Summary

Eureka Recycling is proud to have partnered with St. Louis Park to organize their zero-waste Community Open house on May 18, 2011. More than 700 residents came together to see the new Municipal Service Center, listen to music, and enjoy root beer, mini donuts, and ice cream while learning more about the services and programs available in their city. Through careful planning as well as recycling and composting at the event, this celebration produced only 1.8 pounds of trash — that's **less than a tenth of an ounce per person!** By composting 21 pounds of material and recycling 1.2 pounds, over 93% of all waste generated at the event was diverted from the trash. Congratulations!

This low number could not have been achieved without careful planning in advance by St. Louis Park city staff from Public Works, Parks and Rec, and Park Maintenance departments. All food and beverages were served in compostable containers. City staff were onsite at the event to setup zero-waste equipment, educate residents about what could be composted and recycled, and help cleanup at the end of the night.

Through experience at this event and their annual Earth Day celebration, St. Louis Park city staff can set their sights even higher (or lower, in this case) for the future. Future events could benefit from even more zero waste education for exhibitors, vendors, and attendees, as well as from establishing clear expectations for vendors about their cooperation with waste reduction efforts (only selling or handing out items that can be composted or recycled). The trash consisted primarily of plastic candy wrappers, a few plastic cups carried in from offsite, and diapers.

So congratulations to St. Louis Park! This event was a success not only because we got so close to zero waste, but also because so many people realized that with a little planning and a lot of cooperation, together we can reach a waste-free tomorrow.

Eureka Recycling is the only non-profit in Minnesota specializing in zero waste. A leader in waste reduction education and advocacy, Eureka Recycling provides cutting-edge, economically sustainable programs that serve the Twin Cities metro area, including curbside recycling in Saint Paul, St. Louis Park, Roseville, Arden Hills, and Lauderdale, the Twin Cities Free Market, the Recycled Paper Co-op, composting workshops, event recycling, and zero-waste event services. Driven by a mission to demonstrate that waste is preventable, not inevitable, our programs and services are designed to be cost-effective and to ensure the greatest environmental benefit.

Thank you for your support and for your dedication to an event that educates the public on how to get to zero waste and demonstrates that all events can have minimal environmental impact.



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www.eurekarecycling.org

Our mission is to reduce waste today through innovative resource management and to reach a waste-free tomorrow by demonstrating that waste is preventable, not inevitable.

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