

Paper recycling options increase in Twin Cities metro

Video contest sponsored to educate public

by Katie Erickson

Associate Editor

More paper products can be recycled than area residents realize, according to Tim Pratt, chairman of Shoreview's Environmental Quality Committee (EQC).

Pratt spoke to the City Council Dec. 4 about various environmental issues, including paper recycling.

He said nearly 25 percent of residential trash in the Twin Cities is actually recyclable paper products.

Pratt said that while residents know what used to be recyclable, standards have

changed since recycling programs were started in the 1980s and '90s.

Paper products that can be recycled today include dry food boxes, cardboard boxes from toiletries and other items, phone books, magazines and catalogs, newspapers and inserts, junk mail, envelopes with windows, shredded paper and more.

To better educate the public, four Minnesota organizations have started a Rethink Recycling campaign: the metro-area Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Association of Recycling Managers and Recycling Association of Minnesota.

These organizations are sponsoring a video contest on recycling.

Residents are encouraged to make video clips 30 to 60 seconds in length about paper recycling. Entries will air on local cable access stations.

Entries also will be judged by a combination of "people's choice" votes online and a review board. The first-place winner will receive \$250 cash; second place, a \$150 Best Buy card; and third place, a \$50 Hoigaard's gift certificate.

Contestants must be 13 or older. Videos must be accompanied by a contest entry form and release form, both available online at GreenGuardian.com.

Videos must be submitted by Jan. 31, 2007. Send submissions to Rethink Recycling Video Contest, c/o City of Roseville, 2660 Civic Center Drive, Roseville, MN 55113;

Attn: Tim Pratt.

For more information contact Pratt at 651-792-7027 or tim.pratt@ci.roseville.mn.us.

More on environment

Energy conservation is a common topic worldwide, and Minnesota residents can participate in an online challenge focused on the issue.

At

MNEnergyChallenge.org, residents take a self-assessment survey of their energy use and pledge to save energy in whatever ways they can.

Residents from about 250 cities throughout the state are currently registered.

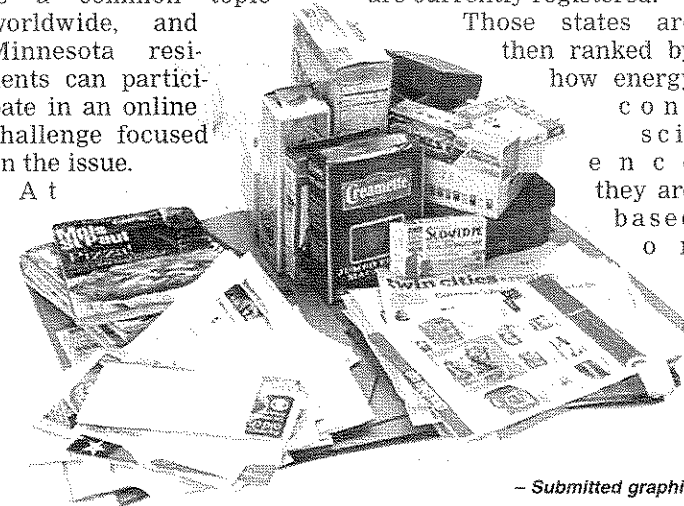
Those states are then ranked by how energy conservation they are based on

their residents' answers. Pratt said Shoreview is currently ranked 50th out of the 250 cities registered so far.

Meanwhile, the Sierra Club meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Shoreview Community Center, 4580 N. Victoria St.

Residents are welcome at any time to join the group, which regularly discusses transportation, clean water and efficient resource use.

Katie Erickson can be reached at 651-407-1229 or shoreviewpress@sherbtdel.net.



- Submitted graphic

These paper products are all recyclable.