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| Hbold600pxw | Hennepin County Environment and Energy **News**  612-348-3777 • [environment@hennepin.us](mailto:environment@hennepin.us)  [www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation](http://www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation)  701 Fourth Ave. S., Suite 700, Minneapolis, MN 55415 |

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Last updated: January 2016

Subject: Yard waste

**Sample Newsletter Article**

**Yard waste: what should I do with it?**

It’s important to dispose of leaves and other yard waste properly to keep Minnesota waters clean.

Yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, garden debris, brush, sod, logs, trees and stumps, both indoor and outdoor plants, mulch and woodchips. Yard waste is a valuable resource that can add nutrients back into your yard or be recycled into compost. It is illegal to put this kind of waste in your household garbage. Here are four ways you can manage yard waste:

1. **Leave grass clippings on your lawn.** This will add valuable nutrients to your yard and can reduce the need for fertilizers. Don’t rake leaves into the street because they carry nutrients that end up in storm sewers and drain to local water sources, polluting rivers, lakes and streams.
2. **Compost in your backyard.** Use a compost bin in your backyard for your garden, yard and food waste. Compost can be used to improve soil on gardens. Learn more about composting, including how to get a compost bin, at [www.hennepin.us/composting](http://www.hennepin.us/composting).
3. **Curbside pick-up.** Contact your waste hauler or city for information on options for curbside yard waste pick-up and material preparations. If you bag yard waste for curbside collection, you are required to use either paper or compostable plastic bags.
4. **Drop-off yard waste at a compost site**. You can dispose of large amounts of yard waste at a local compost site. There are compost sites open to all Hennepin County residents in Burnsville, Empire Township, Maple Grove, Minneapolis, Minnetrista and Shakopee. Some cities have small municipal drop-off sites and/or special collection days. Find a full list of yard waste drop-off sites at [www.hennepin.us/yardwaste](http://www.hennepin.us/yardwaste).

Do your part for the environment and manage your yard waste properly. Learn more about managing yard waste at [www.hennepin.us/yardwaste](http://www.hennepin.us/yardwaste).

**Sample Web Story**

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**Sample Social Media Posts**

*Interact with Hennepin Environment on Facebook at* [*www.facebook.com/hennepinenvironment*](http://www.facebook.com/hennepinenvironment) *and Twitter at* [*www.twitter.com/hennepinenviro*](http://www.twitter.com/hennepinenviro) *(@hennepinenviro).*

**Facebook:**

Contact your waste or city for information on options for curbside yard waste pick-up and material preparations. Many waste haulers offer a seasonal yard waste pick-up in the fall.

Dispose of large amounts of yard waste at a local compost site. Find a full list of yard waste drop-off sites at [www.hennepin.us/yardwaste](http://www.hennepin.us/yardwaste) or call 612-348-3777.

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**Twitter:**

Find a full list of yard waste drop-off sites in Hennepin County at [www.hennepin.us/yardwaste](http://www.hennepin.us/yardwaste) or call 612-348-3777.

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