

May 20, 2019

Dear Mayor Pownell and City Council,

As a member of the Climate Action Plan Advisor Board's Materials & Waste subcommittee, it has come to my attention the urgent need to move Northfield toward being a Zero Waste community. Generation of materials that end up as waste adds to our carbon emissions in a variety of ways. A first step in this zero waste effort is a vigorous education campaign to help residents, businesses, government and institutions in the community understand what our current recycling program allows and does not to reduce the amount of contaminated recycling. Current estimates are that 15% of the recycling in Rice County and Northfield is contaminated and not able to be recycled. Another important effort is to expand the Organics Recycling options in the community for food waste and other organic materials. Given that these educational efforts will take funds to accomplish, I am donating \$50,000 to the City of Northfield to be used as seed funding for these efforts.

City staff have agreed to work on this Zero Waste project through a variety of means to include (but not limited to): mailings to residents and businesses, workshops and events in a variety of settings and for a range of audiences, tours of recycling facilities and social media outreach. Every effort will be made to enhance existing outreach efforts and use materials that are already in place from local, state and national organizations. The timeframe will be from July 2019 - July 2020. Funds may be used for transportation to take volunteers/residents to tour recycling facilities, venue rental for workshops, print and electronic outreach materials, paying interns or work study students to assist with education and outreach efforts and other materials and supplies which staff determine necessary to carry out this work. If it is possible, I would also like the funds to be considered as a source of match for grants and donations from others that may be available during the project timeframe.

I am pleased to be able to offer this support and for the City's willingness to provide staff support.

Sincerely,

  
Jan Shoger

