

Story Ideas for 2013 Eco Experience

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Home

- 1.) Minnesota Made products, including cabinets, countertops and furniture.
- 2.) Comparison of thermostats (including 'smart' thermostats) and light bulbs for energy savings.
- 3.) How to remodel or build with eco-friendly, Minnesota-made products.
- 4.) Furnish rooms with reused furniture from ReUSE Minnesota, designed by an interior designer.
- 5.) Low-cost and no-cost energy improvements for homeowners.
- 6.) Learn how to prevent ice dams on your home.
- 7.) See a real green roof from the Minnesota Green Roofs Council and learn what it takes to have one yourself.
- 8.) Learn about distributed generation and net metering.
- 9.) Discover how to create an allergy free home from Shalee Oleson of Eco Shalee LLC on Thursday, August 22nd.
- 10.) Hear about a simple way to check for toilet leaks to save money and water. We're giving away toilet leak detection tablets each day.

Lifestyle

- 1.) Gen Y Lifestyles – UM College of Design conducted research on Gen Y lifestyles that influenced the design of their Eco Home. Exhibit staffed by students and professor. Materials will be recycled to a park structure at Frogtown Urban Farm in St. Paul after the Fair is over.
- 2.) Learn what community solar gardens are and how they are being implemented in Minnesota. Presented on Friday, August 23rd and Monday, September 2nd.
- 3.) Watch an Eco Fashion Show from the College of St. Catherine on Saturday, August 24th.
- 4.) Learn how to transform your old stuff into fashionable clothes. Presented on Sunday, August 25th.
- 5.) Learn 10 Simple Sustainability Steps to save you money. Presented by Terry Gips from the Alliance for Sustainability on August 29th and 30th
- 6.) See how climate change impacts your life. Life-size silhouettes of people doing activities impacted by climate change, such as a hockey player whose local rink doesn't freeze as early.
- 7.) Learn about how climate change affects Minnesota's ecosystem.
- 8.) Hear how you can refashion your wardrobe for a sassy second style. Presented on Saturday, August 31st.
- 9.) Learn how easy it is to transition to a sustainable lifestyle. Presented on August 23rd.
- 10.) Discover how you can compost with worms in your own home. Presented on Tuesday, August 27th.
- 11.) Learn how you can live off the grid on a budget. Presented on Thursday, August 29th.
- 12.) Get the dirt on community supported organic farms and conventional farms. Presented on Friday, August 30th.

Yard/Gardening

- 1.) Learn how to create a straw bale garden with author Joel Karsten.
- 2.) Chickens in the City - Learn how you can keep chickens in your backyard.
- 3.) Urban Beekeeping – Hear from local beekeeping experts.
- 4.) Permaculture – Learn how to design and grow gardens that require less fertilizer and water, and produce better food.
- 5.) Learn how to easily incorporate vegetables, bees, and chickens into your yard design.
- 6.) Discover how you can use edible container design.

- 7.) Urban trees can help us slow and adapt to climate change. See the large stylized tree and swing, and talk with tree experts each day.
- 8.) Ask a rain garden expert. Landscapers, water educators and nursery specialists can teach you how to use native plants and rain gardens to keep our water clean.
- 9.) Learn about the compost system, including the difference between backyard, curbside, and yard waste composting.
- 10.) See a fake campfire and learn about wood smoke's impact on air quality. Also learn how to properly dry and season firewood.
- 11.) Get recommendations on irrigation, lawn and garden watering.
- 12.) Visit our outdoor gardens to see landscaping focused on food production.
- 13.) Discover how you can farm in the city. Presented on Sunday, September 1st.

Food

- 1.) School lunch ladies from Hopkins Public Schools, Minneapolis Public Schools and Bemidji Public Schools will do cooking demos featuring Farm to School recipes.
- 2.) Farm to School Programs – learn about how schools are providing fresh, healthy food to their students.
- 3.) Cooking demonstrations using Minnesota ingredients from Whole Foods' Chef Ani, Birchwood Café's Marshall Paulson and other local chefs.
- 4.) Learn how to ferment, plus the health and environmental benefits of fermenting. Presented on Thursday, August 22nd and Monday, September 2nd.
- 5.) Hear what's next for local food in schools from Hopkins Public Schools. Presented on Friday, August 23rd.
- 6.) Learn the secrets of making a low-waste meal. Presented on Monday, September 2nd.

Water

- 1.) Minnesota Drinking Water – learn where our water comes from, and the difference between public and private supplies.
- 2.) Watershed – Explore the 20-foot floor map of the Washington-Ramsey Watershed District and learn about how to keep water clean.
- 3.) Water Bugs – See bugs from Minnesota lakes and streams under a microscope. Learn what the bugs in water can tell us about water quality.
- 4.) Learn about water quality projects happening around the state.
- 5.) Winning posters from the Minnesota Department of Health and H2O for Life poster competition will be on display. Posters were created by kids to communicate ways to keep drinking water clean.
- 6.) Learn how to you can use rain barrels at your home. Presented on Saturday, August 24th.
- 7.) Discover what products are safest for you and our water. Presented on Tuesday, August 27th.
- 8.) Come taste test Minnesota drinking water on Saturday, August 31st.

Recycling

- 1.) Aluminum Can Recycling Exhibit – 3.6 million aluminum cans are tossed in the trash each day in Minnesota. See a visual representation including 12,000 aluminum cans, and learn how recycling aluminum cans helps supports jobs in Minnesota.
- 2.) Plastics Recycling – learn what kind of plastic can be recycled in different Minnesota cities, explain the recycling numbers/codes.

Transportation

- 1.) Talk to electric vehicle owners about their experiences and view their vehicles, including a Tesla Model S among other electric, hybrid and compressed natural gas vehicles.
- 2.) Hear from ZAP Twin Cities about their free bicycle commuting rewards program.

- 3.) Learn about different options for transit around the Twin Cities.
- 4.) See a Fix-it-Station for bicycles and learn how to fix your own bicycle.
- 5.) Learn how to use the bus bike racks that are on many Metro Transit buses. Also learn where these buses drive to help you plan your route.
- 6.) See the difference between single-passenger commuting, carpooling, busing and biking in terms of emissions.

Energy and Power

- 1.) Learn about the variety of solar and wind resources around the state.
- 2.) Visit the Tiny Solar House – includes solar PV panels, solar thermal, and solar hot air.
- 3.) See the base of a wind turbine and learn how wind power can be a consistent source of energy.
- 4.) Feel the wind on your face with a high-powered fan. Change the speed of the wind to feel what it might be like at different altitudes.
- 5.) See examples of solar car ports, solar boats, solar toys, a solar powered water fountain, a solar powered glowing bar and more.
- 6.) Learn about the many job opportunities in the wind industry.
- 7.) See the winning boat from Minnesota Renewable Energy's Solar Boat Regatta. The team, from Orono High School, has members that have participated the last 6 years. 3 of those members are heading to college to major in electrical engineering. The team also raced in the International Collegiate Races this year and placed in the top 10.

Other

- 1.) Learn what green chemistry actually is and how it affects our everyday lives. Hear from University of Minnesota students about projects they are doing in the lab.
- 2.) Come see who won the Youth Voice of Change: Climate Change Video Competition, run in collaboration between The Will Steger Foundation and the MPCA, at the awards ceremony and screening of the Top 10 films on Friday, August 23rd.
- 3.) Learn about green engineering. The era of single-use and toxic materials is on the way out. Hear from the U of M Center for Sustainable Polymers about reducing toxicity and waste in manufacturing.