

Going Green

By NICK FOLK, JUSTIN BICEK
The Minikahda Club, North Oaks Golf Club

"Going Green" is a commonly used term in our modern day language. In fact, a plausible statement may be that a person could not go one day without hearing it on the radio, seeing a commercial on TV, or looking at a billboard during their commute. Since golf is an industry that focuses on "green", it's only fitting that we continue to strive for environmentally friendly methods which reuse and protect our resources.

We try to minimize the use of synthetic chemicals by utilizing horticultural oils, organic materials, extracts, and bio-stimulants. We save water by increasing natural areas, developing more efficient irrigation systems, and using disease/drought tolerant grass species when applicable all in hopes of reducing inputs and our impact on the environment.

A simple online search on recycling facts will blow your mind! Like this one, a typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk, and 26 gallons of bottled water a year. That's a lot of containers! It's hard to put a number on what a golf course uses, but focusing on recycling would prove to be beneficial when compared to a typical household.

Throughout our golf clubs many other plastics (soft drink, automotive and cleaning bottles to name a few) are all recycled by our local waste management company.

Unfortunately, the pesticide containers we generate do not meet our local recycling companies' requirements; specifically the toxicity of what was in the containers could be hazardous in the finished product. Fortunately, the pesticide manufacturers founded and funded the establishment of a collection and recycling program for triple rinsed containers in 1992. Since that time nearly 120,000,000 pounds of containers have been recycled.

Container Services Network (CSN), is the contractor for Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC) servicing Minnesota.. They provide additional recycling options for many industries in the Mid-West with tailored services to fit any need you may have. They will recycle plastic, steel, dispensing systems, fiber containers, and container accessories. Most importantly, they will take our triple rinsed pesticide containers while ensuring the most efficient and economic methods of recycling are carried out to meet ACRC protocols.

Last year, The Minikahda Club utilized CSN, and this year, North Oaks Golf Club

will utilize CSN to recycle pesticide containers instead of sending them to a landfill where the average plastic container takes 500 years to break down!

Want to participate? The requirements are simple and NO cost to your facility, just your dedication to prepare your containers for proper recycling. The following is a list of requirements needed to participate.

How to Participate

1) All pesticide containers must be triple rinsed with caps and labels removed and punctured per ACRC specifications.

2) All containers smaller than 5 gallons must be in bags to be recycled (provided by CSN). Each bag can hold approximately 40 2.5-gallon containers or 40 +/- pounds. Containers over 5 gallons will be loaded loose onto the truck.

3) Since CSN does not chip on site, they offer year round service to pick up containers at no cost when appropriate amounts are available (1000 lb. minimum otherwise you drop them off).

4) Arranging a drop-off will require contacting CSN to set up a time and an empty trip to a nearby scale to get your vehicle weight. You will then need to return to the scale loaded and obtain a scale ticket which you present at the drop off site.

5) The site coordinator and contractor's agent will be responsible for inspecting and approving the condition of containers for pick-up or when we deliver.

The pictures to the right show the proper steps taken for recycling your pesticide containers. Containers that have been triple rinsed with labels removed are placed in large plastic bags and tied off to keep them dry. Virtually all plastic containers are acceptable, from 12oz to 55gallons. Once you have a sufficient number of bags/containers, contact your site coordinator for the proper documents and schedule a time for drop off.

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(Editor's Note: For more information contact Sheri DeMars at SDeMars@ContainerServicesNetwork.com or ContainerServicesNetwork.com)

RECYCLING - STEP 1

Containers that have been triple rinsed with labels removed are placed in large plastic bags and tied off to keep them dry. Virtually all plastic containers are acceptable, from 12 oz to 55 gallons.



RECYCLING - STEP 2

Accumulate a sufficient number of containers.



RECYCLING - STEP 3

Once you have a sufficient number of bags/containers, contact your site coordinator for the proper documents and schedule a time for drop off.

