

Nature Newsflash – December 4, 2023

Green Christmas Lights

A few ways to be greener with your holiday lights.

Many of us cherish the sight of our streets illuminated by holiday lights this time of year. There are ways to make those displays more environmentally friendly. For example, you can cut down on energy consumption by making sure you use efficient LED lights (which are now the predominant type sold). And by setting up a timer that turns off the lights when you go to bed, you'll not only save money, you'll also lessen light pollution--star-gazers, sensitive sleepers, and [certain animal species](#) will be glad you did.

Eventually string lights fail. Sometimes there's an easy fix--a replacement bulb or a fuse. If it is doable, you might get some free repair help at one of the [Ramsey County Fix-It Clinics](#). But if it's time to dispose of old lights, it's best to do so [properly](#). [Repowered](#) at 860 Vandalia Street in St Paul will take them for just 49 cents per pound (the *lights* are typically very *light*, so it won't cost you much). Repowered is open weekdays until 4:30 pm and on certain Saturday mornings. You might also look into the free [St. Paul Public Library's Lights Recycling Program](#) that runs until January 22nd. The Ramsey County Hazardous Waste Facility at 5 Empire Drive in St Paul is another good option, and it is open year-round.

Submitted by John Pellegrini, resident of Falcon Heights and member of the Environment Commission

Is there something you want to see in the Nature Newsflash, or are you an expert and want to be included in future articles? Send your ideas over to Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator, at hannah.b.lynch@falconheights.org.