



2024 Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Program

About the Program

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is a nonprofit dedicated to increasing recycling in Minnesota to improve the social and economic health of our citizens, businesses, institutions and future generations. Each spring, we partner with Soil and Water Conservation Districts, local governments, watershed districts, nonprofits, and other organizations to provide rain barrels and compost bins made from recycled plastic at low cost to Minnesota residents. We believe this program fits our mission and makes a meaningful impact.

Products available include the Rain Catcher Rain Barrel and a Compost Bin. Barring any unforeseen increases from the manufacturers, the rain barrel will cost \$90 + tax and the compost bin \$76 + tax.

How does it work?

Typically, our distribution partners (you) will pick a location and date to host a distribution event, RAM will coordinate the group order and delivery of product to your site, as well as handle all the customer purchases online. More details and expectations are below.

Alternatively, you can place an invoiced order, where you purchase the product directly from RAM and manage the sales independently.

Benefits of participating in our program include

- Encourages and promotes rain water collection and organics recycling
- Educates residents on waste reduction best management practices
- Promotes use of recycled products
- Engage in direct communication with residents of your district
- Offers tangible items to residents of your community
- RAM handles all the financial transactions so you don't have to (unless you prefer to manage your sales independently)!

Delivery Minimums

The minimums below are necessary to have the product delivered to your site. If you want fewer than the minimum, let us know and we may be able to add it to another order in your area if you're willing to go pick it up from them. *Another option:* contact your nearby colleagues and combine your orders to meet the minimum!

Rain barrel delivery minimum: 72 barrels (6 pallets) numbers can be increased by increments of 12

Compost bin delivery minimum: 54 bins (3 pallets) numbers can be increased by increments of 18

****We encourage you to be conservative with your order numbers, but if you're able to order more than the delivery minimum that REALLY helps us keep shipping prices down. ****

Flexibility is Key!

By ordering as a group directly from the manufacturers, we are able to offer the rates listed above that are significantly lower than retail, but we lose some of the conveniences of purchasing from a large retailer. Here are some examples:

- Each distribution partner needs to estimate how many units they'll sell, before the sale itself. We buy the products by the truckload, so we can't add or subtract numbers after the order has been placed (unless you want a full truckload ... but you probably don't ☺). This can seem tricky, but we are here to help you estimate based on the size and location of your community. In general, we recommend first-time partners stick with the delivery minimum.
- The products are delivered to you directly from the manufacturer in Canada. We request a specific delivery date, but we are all at the mercy of the trucking company, the weather and the border crossing. We ask that the truck drivers keep us updated on their ETA, but they rarely do. We will keep you updated as much as possible with the information given to us through the manufacturers, but it is a situation where we all need to be flexible.
- People don't usually consider us, when they think about rain barrels and compost bins, so as much as you can do to help get the word out about the sale, the faster you'll sell your stock! Everyone does it a bit differently, but putting the sale information in your social media channels, newsletters, utility bills, and local paper are all good ideas.
- While RAM takes care of the organizing and online store components of the sale, we do not have access to trucks or large storage, so we cannot move or take back any product that does not sell. Additionally, RAM needs to pay the manufacturer's invoice, so if a large number of product is left unsold at the end of the sale, we may need to invoice you for it. That said, we are happy to work with you in any way we can, such as extending your sale dates.

Expectations of Distribution Partner

- Select a distribution date and location (coordinating with existing tree sale, educational programs or other events is a plus)
- Provide a discount for compost bins and rain barrels to your community members, if funding allows (highly encouraged)
- Promote sale through newsletter, social media, etc.
- Coordinate and communicate details for distribution event internally
- Organize staff or volunteers to help with distribution event
- Must have flexibility around delivery date and ability to store products onsite leading up to event
- Must unload the delivery utilizing loading dock, forklift and pallet jacks (the truck drivers do not assist)
- Dispose of pallets, cardboard and pallet wrap from the product delivery
- Provide an alternative pick-up arrangement for customer no-shows (highly recommended)
- Must take possession of and pay for any unsold product after the event

Expectations of RAM

- Provide partners with current information on products, prices, order minimums, dates and other sale procedures
- Place the group orders and organize delivery logistics with the rain barrel manufacturer and the compost bin regional sales coordinator
- Manage online sales of products according to specifications entered in the order form
- Advertise sale through RAM's website, social media and email lists

- Answer inquiries and address issues with customers
- Provide partners with a complete list of customers the day prior to the distribution event
- Send text message reminders to customers the day before their pickup date
- Follow up with no-show customers

To sign up as a distribution partner or place an invoiced order, please [click here](#) and complete the form by **December 23rd**

Timeline:

November-December:

- Partners sign up for the spring sale by providing product amounts and other details to RAM

January-February:

- RAM submits all orders to the manufacturers and works with them to coordinate transportation logistics
- Partners finalize pickup event dates, if not done already
- RAM builds out the online sales platform

March:

- RAM opens online sales, handles all financial transactions March 1
- Partners advertise the sale to their community
- RAM advertises the sale to our community

April-May:

- Partners should hear from trucking companies regarding delivery logistics a few days prior to delivery date
- RAM works with manufacturers and partners to confirm deliveries

April-June:

- RAM sends partners the list of customer names and amounts for their pickup location
- Partners staff pickup events
- RAM is on-call during pickup events in case there are order questions
- RAM contacts no-show customers with alternative pickup option (if available)

June:

- RAM invoices any partners that gave discounts to residents

If you have questions, or for more information please contact John A. Gregg at John@recycleminnesota.org or 651-641-4589