

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

Campus News Archive

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

3-9-2011

A green Christmas and all year long

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news

Recommended Citation

University Relations, "A green Christmas and all year long" (2011). *Campus News Archive*. 727.
https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/727

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus News, Newsletters, and Events at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in Campus News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact skulann@morris.umn.edu.

Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

A green Christmas and all year long

Summary: Sonya Kopet '12, Starbuck, collected used holiday lights as one of her GreenCorps projects.

(March 9, 2011)-For the past two years ,the University of Minnesota, Morris based GreenCorps has been working to make Christmases a little bit “greener” by setting up recycling opportunities for Christmas lights. GreenCorps recycling member, Sonya Kopet '12, Starbuck, worked in conjunction with Recycle Across America (RAM) to collect used holiday lights, saving them from landfills. The project is a statewide effort that GreenCorps members participated in last year as well and that Kopet hopes will be a growing tradition.

Kopet set up boxes for the lights at Willies, Thrifty White, and The Salvation Army. She contacted the Morris Chamber of Commerce, and the information was sent out in the community’s Friday Facts. She also contacted RAM and was added to the statewide map of participating communities. In December, 190 pounds of lights were collected, and 117 pounds in January. Kopet also plans to pick up the Morris Chamber of Commerce’s lights when they take them down in March or April. She says that parts of the lights can be recycled, and “we just don’t need to throw it all away we can reuse it.”

Now, as winter comes to a close, Kopet's project is looking at the differences between on and off campus recycling and trying to inform the campus community about these differences. She says that “helping people become more informed about recycling options is the most important part of the position.”

Upcoming events for Kopet and the GreenCorps include Prairie Pioneer Days, Horticulture Night, and hopefully other events during the summer at which she hopes to both promote and help with the event’s recycling.

The Minnesota GreenCorps is an environmentally focused AmeriCorps program administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). This program is funded through a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service with additional support from ServeMinnesota. Partnering in this program is University of Minnesota, Morris [Center for Small Towns](#).

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.