

Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

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Join in creating a community vision for a better Saint Paul Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable begins September 28th

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Saint Paul, August 11, 2005-- Concerned about St. Paul's environment and quality of life? Want to know what the city is currently doing about these issues? Wonder what we can do on a local level to improve our environment? Have some good ideas to share or discuss? Starting September 28, 2005, *The Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable*, a forum for concerned citizens, will begin a series of community meetings designed to address important issues regarding Saint Paul's environment, especially those where local action can make a positive impact.

The Roundtable consists of 19 community members who are researching selected environmental topics, and will present the issues to the community, encourage community dialogues on the issues, and ultimately develop recommendations to the City. The goals of the Roundtable process are to provide citizens with the opportunity to be more informed about what Saint Paul is already doing and recommend initiatives to further protect and enhance Saint Paul's environment and quality of life. Community members from the Environmental Roundtable have identified the following topics and schedules for their presentations:



Topic 1: WORKING FOR A WASTE-FREE SAINT PAUL

Present the Issue for Community Discussion: September 28 @ 7-9 p.m.

Weyerhauser Chapel @ Macalester College, 1600 Grand Avenue

Community Discussion of Recommendations for Action: October 17th @ 7-9 p.m.

Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul

Topic 2: HEALTHY LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Present the Issue for Community Discussion: October 27 @ 7-9 p.m.

Community Discussion of Recommendations for Action: November 17 @ 7-9 p.m.

Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 271 Mackubin Street

Topic 3: SMARTER, CLEANER ENERGY

Present the Issue for Community Discussion: November 12 @ 10 a.m. to Noon

Community Discussion of Recommendations for Action: January 17 @ 7-9 p.m.

Weyerhauser Chapel @ Macalester College, 1600 Grand Avenue

Starting in January 2006, the Roundtable will begin discussing three more topics:

- Topic 4: Greening the Built Environment (Jan/Feb 2006)
- Topic 5: Improve the Quality & Quantity of Green Space (Feb/Mar 2006)
- Topic 6: Clean Water Stewardship (Mar/Apr 2006)

Citizens are encouraged to attend an open meeting where volunteer Roundtable members will present relevant information about a local environmental topic. Residents who attend can ask questions, learn about the current environmental conditions and find opportunities to take action. The Roundtable topic leaders will then dedicate at least one month to generating community wide interest on the issue by disseminating and gathering ideas and information about the topic. One month after the initial presentation, the citizens are encouraged to attend a follow-up meeting and comment on draft recommendations for action. The second meeting will focus on “next steps” and provide an opportunity for discussion among the Roundtable members and the public. At the end of the process, all of the individual topic recommendations will be consolidated into a final set of recommendations and presented to city leaders.

