It's the economy and the environment

For years people have been accusing me of being a tree hugger because I'm such a passionate recycler. While I have been seen giving a high five to the maple in my front yard, I'm Minnesotan and hugging can be a bit uncomfortable sometimes.

But I have no problem embracing this news from a story in the StarTribune, "Last year, companies manufacturing with recycled materials accounted for 18,029 jobs in the state… The total economic benefit to Minnesota was an estimated $15.7 billion." Yes, it's not just the environment that benefits when you recycle – it's the economy too.

For instance, if you buy a Snapple at the convenience store the bottle was made at Anchor Glass in Shakopee. All the rebar used to make the new 35W bridge was manufactured by Gerdau Ameristeel in South St. Paul.

So preserve good jobs and protect the environment; put your recycling in the cart.

Sharps

Big news for those who routinely use injectable medications. Sharps are now accepted for free at the Hennepin County Transfer Facility, 8100 Jefferson Highway. Find hours and preparation instructions at http://www.hennepin.us/dropoffs

Order a Bin or Barrel

April showers bring May flowers. April also brings the Recycling Association of Minnesota's annual Rain Barrel and Compost Bin sale. Not only can you help the environment, you can help your wallet too. Pre-order your barrel or bin now at http://recycleminnesota.org/work/compost-bins-rain-barrels/ and you can pick them up in April.