



# Blue Bin News

## St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter

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Issue #27

### Valentine's Day Greening Cards

According to the National Retail Federation, the top selling Valentine's Day gift is a greeting card. The Greeting Card Association reports that approximately 190 million cards will be exchanged in the U.S. this Valentine's Day, not including classroom valentines. Cards derived from virgin paper can contribute to deforestation, air pollution, and water pollution. If you plan to exchange cards this year, consider conserving natural resources, and preventing air and water pollution by finding alternatives to cards made from virgin paper.



- Send e-cards.
- Make your own cards from reused materials.
- Buy cards made from post-consumer recycled paper.
- Keep cards you receive to use as postcards, gift tags, or for use in arts and craft projects.

Impress your card recipient(s) by making a pop-up card. Begin by gathering used paperboard (e.g., dry food boxes), used paper (e.g., newspaper or magazine pages), a glue stick, a ruler, a pen or pencil, scissors, and an X-acto knife.

1. Cut out two sheets of paper from a magazine, newspaper, etc.
2. Cut two pieces of paperboard the same size as the paper so that all four sheets are the same size.
3. Using a gluestick, glue one sheet of paper onto one sheet of paperboard to create a panel, repeat.
4. Trim both panels into 6"x8" dimensions.
5. Fold one of the panel pieces in half lengthwise so that the side you want as the inside of your card is facing inward.
6. Open the card, and draw a medium-sized heart shape. Then, draw a smaller heart shape inside the medium heart.
7. Using an X-acto knife, cut along the outline of each heart, leaving a one centimeter gap at each side of the heart so that it is still attached to the card. Pop out the hearts to give a 3-D effect.
8. Fold the outer panel of the card in half lengthwise so that it will fit over the inside panel.
9. Using a gluestick, glue the two pieces together.
10. Write a special message inside and give to someone you care about.

View Shiho Masuda's video instructions at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWR8EwkAHa0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWR8EwkAHa0) and learn more ways to celebrate Valentine's Day without creating waste at [www.newdream.org/holiday/valentine.pdf](http://www.newdream.org/holiday/valentine.pdf).

### February 2010 Upcoming Events

Details available at

<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/calendar.html>

#### Thursday, February 11

- Native Landscaping Part 1: Planning & Design, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Thursday, February 18

- Composting Expanded: Bokashi, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

#### Tuesday, February 23

- Home Composting Class, 6:00 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.
- Landscaping & Gardening with Native Plants Class, 7:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.



## Reusing Shipping Containers For Emergency Housing

An idea inspired by housing crises following large hurricanes in the Caribbean and United States may also lend itself to earthquake disaster areas, such as Haiti. Safe housing can be difficult to come by after the destruction of a hurricane or an earthquake. To help people who have been displaced by a disaster, Clemson University researchers are working on ideas that can turn surplus shipping containers into sturdy and safe emergency housing. Providing quick, reliable shelter can help people spend more time rebuilding their communities, and less time worrying about where they will sleep at night. With a few cuts and modifications, shipping containers can become a safe haven for people displaced in a disaster. Made to travel turbulent oceans, shipping containers can withstand 140 mile/hour winds without overturning. Their construction is also durable enough to hold up in an earthquake.



Items that might get reused in this project are 55-gallon steel drums. They might be used to create starter gardens (especially if the soil has been contaminated by stormwater), or as water containment that can be used for a shower or sink.

The prototype emergency container shelter is being constructed on the Clemson campus. The project has been awarded an EPA P3 (People, Prosperity, and the Planet) grant to make the container housing part of the 2010 National Sustainable Design Expo in Washington D.C. in April. For more information about this project, visit [www.clemson.edu/media-relations/article.php?article\\_id=2512](http://www.clemson.edu/media-relations/article.php?article_id=2512) or [www.cusa-dds.net/seed/?page\\_id=332](http://www.cusa-dds.net/seed/?page_id=332).

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## Olympic Medals Made From Recycled Metals



In an effort to make the 2010 Winter Olympics more sustainable, the gold, silver, and bronze medals awarded to the first-, second-, and third-place Olympians will be partially made from metals recovered from TVs, computers, various circuit boards, and other electronics.

The medals have been produced by the Royal Canadian Mint, which bought the metals from Teck Resources, Canada's largest base-metals producer. Each of the 1,014 medals has a unique design created by Vancouver artists.

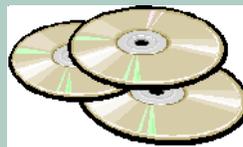
If you have electronics that need to be recycled, visit [www.ecyclestlouis.org](http://www.ecyclestlouis.org) to find an electronics recycler nearest you. Just imagine what your old TV might be recycled into!

## Where to Recycle Electronic Media

Wondering what to do with old CDs, DVDs, audio and video cassettes, video games, floppy disks, etc.?



First, you might try donating items in working condition to a local school, charity, or other organization. Non-working items might be useful



to a local school or youth group as arts and craft supplies. What items remain can be recycled through a variety of organizations. Details are available at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/electronicmedia.html>.



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## City of St. Louis Refuse Division's Recycling Program

### Archived Issues Available at

<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/residentialnewsletter.html>.

### Reader Submissions Welcome

E-mail submissions to [recycle@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:recycle@stlouis.missouri.org).

### To Subscribe

Would you or anyone you know like to receive Blue Bin News? Contact us at [recycle@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:recycle@stlouis.missouri.org) to be added to our e-mailing list.