



May issue

ReNews

For PreK-12 Educators
A Publication of the City of St. Louis



Refuse Division - Recycling Program

Go GREEN this spring!



Spring is here! For most of us it means time for spring cleaning. Instead of throwing everything away or donating all of your items why not take something your children have outgrown and upcycle it?! *Upcycling* is a process in which discarded goods are transformed into objects of worth. Some examples include glass bottles made into vases, plastic bottles transformed into flowers, or taking an old t-shirt and making it into a backpack. This example is shown below:



Materials:

For this project, you will need:

- scissors
- sewing pins
- safety pin
- sewing machine or needle and thread
- t-shirt
- * Optional: clothesline cord & 7/16 eyelet or grommet sewing kit

Procedure:

Step 1: Turn the t-shirt inside out and cut from armpit to armpit. You will only need the lower portion of the t-shirt

Step 2: Sew or thread a simple stitch across the shirt about a half-inch from the cut edge, to seal what will be the bottom of the bag.

Step 3: Turn the shirt right side out. Snip the shirts hem almost all the way through (Be careful not to cut any stitching) at the midpoint between the two side seams. Next you can choose to add the straps. Choices include adding a drawstring or using the sleeves for the straps. See the following websites for full step-by-step instructions.

Sources:

- <http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-make-a-draw-string-backpack-out-of-a-t-shirt/>
- <http://familyfun.go.com/crafts/backpack-shirt-922871>

For additional resources or supplies, check out the websites below:

- Upcycle Exchange:* www.upxchange.com
- Home Eco:* www.home-eco.com



Garage Sales

This is a great time of year for garage or yard sales. Garage sales have always been great for the environment, because they allow people to exercise the practice of *re-using*. Help cut back on the amount of waste that is buried in our landfills by selling your old possessions, as well as buying used instead of new. In addition to saving resources, garage sales also help us save money or even earn lots of extra cash. This year “green” your garage sale by following a few of these tips:

1. Location, location, location!

Hold your sale in your neighborhood, church, or school. Choose a location that is accessible for pedestrians and bike riders to reduce the amount of toxins and pollutants released into the air from automobiles.

2. Praise, praise, praise!

Putting items back into the supply chain reduces demand and saves materials. Pump your patrons up with praise by thanking them for helping close the loop.

3. Reuse, Reuse, Reuse!

The items that didn’t sell at your garage sale may still be of use to someone else. Donate the leftover items to charity or submit a post on Craigslist or Freecycle.

Upcoming Events

May
- 30th

Neighbors Naturescaping Kick-Off meeting

Learn more about greening and beautifying your neighborhood by participating in Neighbors Naturescaping 2012. Join us at Neighbors Naturescaping Kick-Off meeting. Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Brightside St. Louis, 4646 Shenandoah Avenue
To R.S.V.P. or for more info call Brightside St. Louis at 314-772-4646!

Danielle Bradley: Over Time

Bruno David Gallery shows a series of new drawings, titled *Over Time*, by Danielle Spradley. Spradley's work centers on the immense amount of change over time in the relationship between society and the environment. By painting images of the homeless woven into piles of trash, juxtaposing the trash accumulated in the city with Native American mythological characters, Spradley elevates these remnants of modern society.

Time: 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Location: Bruno David Gallery, 3721 Washington Blvd. St. Louis, MO

For more info call Bruno David Gallery at 314-531-3030 or visit the website: www.brunodavidgallery.com

June
- 11th

Sustainable Schoolyards

The Earthways Center is hosting this workshop to introduce educators to methods for planning and creating a schoolyard wildlife habitat while achieving curriculum objectives.

Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Location: Litzinger Road Ecology Center (Ladue)

For more info call 314-540-4068 or visit the website:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/learn-discover/students-teachers/teacher-professional-development.aspx#4916>

Summer Camps

School is out for the summer, which means it's time to gear up for summer camps. Below are a few organizations that offer summer opportunities that focus on green living.

City of St. Louis Recycling Program Residential Youth Recycling

No need to worry about getting the kids to us because we come to you! Children of all ages can take part in learning ways to help keep our planet a cleaner and greener place to live beginning with our city. For more information, contact the City of St. Louis Recycling Program @ 314-353-7176 or visit our website: www.stlouis-mo.gov

Missouri Botanical Gardens Great Green Adventures

(Drop-in Programs for Ages 6–12)

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/learn-discover/youth-families/just-for-kids/visit-us/great-green-adventures.aspx>

Camp EarthWays: Young Green Builders (Summer Camp for Ages 10–13)

<https://www.mobot.org/iebm/coe-coe-p2-details.aspx?eventid=32304&oc=10&cc=educlasses>

Leftovers, Etc.

www.leftoversetc.com

Reader Submissions Welcome

Share your waste management-related questions, lesson plans, activities, "how to" tips, calendar items, etc. by e-mailing *ReNews* at recycle@stlouiscity.com. Contributors whose submissions result in publication will receive a recycled product in exchange.

To Subscribe

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City of St. Louis Refuse Division's Recycling Program

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