



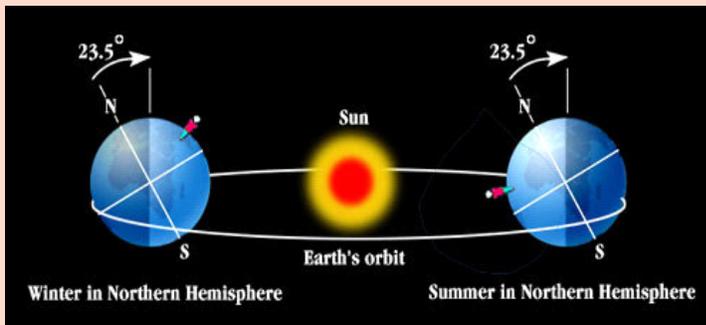
# Blue Bin News

## St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter

### Winter Solstice

As the darkness of winter falls upon the Northern Hemisphere, celebrations of renewed life begin to emerge from the cold. Many cultures around the world celebrate the winter solstice in a variety of ways, but, all cultures observe the dark day for similar reasons.

The winter solstice is the day of the year which has the shortest hours of daylight and the longest hours of darkness. This loss of sunlight is caused by the tilt of the Earth's axis. When the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun (as it is during the winter months), less light reaches the northern half of the earth. Thus, this explains why the days get shorter and the nights get longer. Ancient civilizations observed this annual phenomenon and began to hold ceremonies designed to assist nature in returning from the path toward constant darkness. The darkness and cold that fall upon the Northern Hemisphere this time of year allows people to become more aware of how fragile life is. It reminds us that without light, there would be no life. This relationship exemplifies our dependence on nature and helps us realize the need to protect it.



While preparing for the upcoming holidays, we should keep this connection with nature in mind. Many of us will soon pull out our boxes of winter decorations, attempting to brighten our spirits that have been dampened by the lack of daylight. While reusing decorations each year is a great way to reduce holiday waste, there are many other ways to ring in a new year while conserving our natural resources on which we so desperately depend. Below are a few suggestions:

- \* Buy light strands wired in parallel to keep them all shining, even if one bulb goes out.
- \* Save bows, ribbons, and gift wrap for next year.
- \* Decorate a potted tree that can be planted after the holidays.
- \* If you prefer a live tree, learn how to treecycle it by visiting <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/refuse/yardwate.html>.

- \* Send a holiday card via e-mail.
- \* For those who do not have web access, buy post-consumer recycled content holiday cards.
- \* Use old holiday cards as gift tags (cut them into festive shapes, punch a hole, and thread a ribbon through).
- \* Buy durable, reusable gifts that will last.
- \* Package gifts in reusable tins, baskets, or bags.

### Buy Reused and Recycled

Simple Shoes  
[www.simpleshoes.com](http://www.simpleshoes.com)

They sell shoes made with recycled plastic fibers, car tires, and paper.



Check out this month's featured products and more at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/buyreusedrecycled.htm>

### Tip of the Month

#### Buy and Recycle Rechargeable Batteries



According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 40% of all battery sales occur during the winter holidays. Be sure to buy rechargeables to accompany your electronic gifts, and maybe even a charger to go along.

For a list of places that accept rechargeables for recycling visit <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/batteries.html>.

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

Website: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle>  
 Email: [recycle@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:recycle@stlouis.missouri.org)  
 Phone: 353.7176 (direct dial) or 353.8877 (switchboard)

## Alternative Gift Wrapping Party

When: December 15th, 2007

Where: Home Eco, 4611 Macklind Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63109

Time: 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Home Eco will be hosting their Second Annual Holiday Recycled Wrap Party. Using old maps, wallpaper, fabrics, and recycled trims, volunteers will wrap presents in exchange for donations to the charity of your choice. They will wrap gifts bought from Home Eco, as well as gifts brought from home. If you dread the achy back and paper cuts that come with wrapping gifts, let someone else do it while you and your family enjoy cookies and milk while listening to holiday jingles. If you enjoy the creative freedom of wrapping gifts, Home Eco is also looking for volunteers to help wrap. Donations of clean reusable papers, from maps to wallpaper, and trims (string, ribbon, cord handles from boutique bags) are also being collected for the big wrapping party. Call Terry at (314) 351-2000 if you have questions, or stuff to donate that could be reborn as gift wrap.



## The Grinch that Ruined Recycling

The Grinch hated recycling, especially during the holiday season. Now please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason. It could be a paper cut once caused him great pain. It could be holiday junk mail drove him insane. But I think that the most likely reason of all May have been that his recycling bin was two sizes too small. Whatever the reason, the junk mail or his small bin, The Grinch chose to make everyone more miserable than him. I won't pre-rinse: I'll make my recycling smell. I'll hide garbage in my leaves so no one can tell. I'll recycle my papers on days when it rains. I'll add in some food waste to cause dirty stains. I'll recycle plastic #6 when only 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 are accepted. I'll put in caps and lids, who cares if I'm corrected. I'll throw in some light bulbs, crystals and glass panes. They say "glass containers" but they're really all the same. And sometimes I'll simply throw my recycling away. After all, who's it hurting, if I miss just one day? The collectors struggled to recycle what they could. But the Grinch's recyclables were simply no good. Left out in the weather, so full of contamination. The overflowing bin sometimes littered. Oh, the abomination! Week after week, the Grinch called the collectors the fools. When week after week, he himself, broke all the rules.



Then one day the Grinch happened to see That the landfill was filling as fast as could be. And the Grinch began to ponder the meaning of this. In a landfill how long would his items exist? Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. Maybe recycling, he thought means a little bit more. In a landfill, the waste items are good for no one. But in recycling, waste items create jobs and so on. It is good to the earth and good for the community. And he thought that if everyone would recycle in unity And buy recycled goods when they shopped at the store And recycle correctly and recycle more... Then, maybe, perhaps we could make recycling stay. What happened then...well in St. Louis they say Is that the Grinch's small brain grew three sizes that day. And the minute his mind wasn't feeling so maniacal He thought of more ways and more reasons to recycle. And he spread these words to his neighbors and kin: Recycle correctly and recycle more in your recycling bin. And to prove that he was dedicated to completing the caper He himself, the Grinch, switched to recycled-content paper.



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## Why is it important to wrap responsibly?

Solve the Cryptogram (check your answer at the bottom of page 2)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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## Where to Recycle Corks:

As you celebrate the upcoming winter holidays, you may find yourself accumulating an abundance of corks. You can recycle them by mailing them to:

### RePlayGround

476 Union Avenue, Studio 2  
Brooklyn, New York 11211  
Phone: 347-546-4868  
[www.replayground.com](http://www.replayground.com)

\* They accept synthetic and cork types

### Yemm & Hart Ltd.

Wine Cork Recycling  
610 South Chamber Drive  
Fredericktown, Missouri 63645  
[www.yemmhart.com](http://www.yemmhart.com)

\* They accept only natural cork, no synthetic types



Answer: About seven hundred million trees are cut down each year to produce the world's supply of paper.