



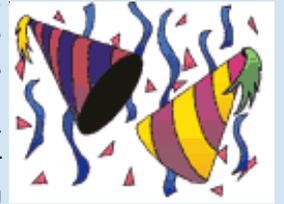
Blue Bin News

St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter

Resolving to Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle More Stuff

Have you decided what your resolution will be for 2008? Would you like to do something that will make you feel good and positively impact your environment at the same time? How about resolving to reduce the amount of waste you generate, reuse materials you already have, and recycle resources?

The earth is a finite planet, meaning there are a limited amount of resources available for us to use. Today, if every person living on earth consumed and disposed of our planet's resources as much as Americans do, we would need 3 to 5 planets just like Earth to sustain the world's population (take the ecological footprint quiz at <http://www.earthday.net/footprint/index.asp> to find out how sustainable your lifestyle is). Since the United States contains only 5% of the world's population, but consumes 30% of the world's resources and generates 30% of the world's waste, every American should make it their lifetime resolution to reduce, reuse, and recycle.



Not only will this resolution help reduce our impact on the planet, it will also increase our national and global security. As resources are depleted, they become more desirable and lead to conflicts over who has rights to those resources. Reducing our reliance on our finite resources, by consuming less, reusing more, and recycling what we can, will conserve the valuable resources we depend on.

Everything that we buy is made from and processed using natural resources that are extracted from our environment. Not only does this extraction process exploit resources that future generations will need for survival, it also damages our environment by destroying wildlife habitat, creating pollution, and consuming energy. In addition to our increasing consumption levels, we have also become a "throw-away" society. Today, people in the U.S. are throwing away twice as much trash as they were only 50 years ago. Everyday, the average American throws away 4.5 pounds of trash. That equals 1643 pounds per year, or 126,511 pounds (63 tons) over the average American life-span. Imagine how much waste we could reduce if we were more conscientious consumers. *The Story of Stuff* is a quick, fact filled look at our consumption patterns. It exposes the connections between a number of environmental and social issues. *The Story of Stuff* is an informative and humorous 20 minute video that "may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever." View *The Story of Stuff* at <http://www.storyofstuff.com> to learn what needs to change and how you can help change it.

Quote of the Month

You have succeeded in life when all you really want is only what you really need. ~ Vernon Howard

Buy Reused and Recycled

Warm and Cozy Winter Wear www.baabaazuzu.com

They sell scarves, hats, mittens, purses, and other products handmade from scraps of reused sweaters.



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

Missouri Municipal Solid Waste Composition Study Released

The Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. conducted a study for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources by sorting municipal solid waste at 15 solid waste disposal facilities. The results of the study will be used to help plan waste reduction programs, measure the effectiveness of current waste reduction programs, and target recoverable materials that have the potential to be recycled. View the press release and links to the full report at http://www.dnr.mo.gov/newsrel/nr08_002.htm.

City of St. Louis Refuse Division's Recycling Program

Website: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle>

Email: recycle@stlouis.missouri.org

Phone: 353.7176 (direct dial) or 353.8877 (switchboard)

ARCHS Medicine Take Back



With the generous support of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS) has established a Regional eXcess Medication Disposal Service (RxMEDS) partnership that will focus on collecting expired or unwanted prescription or over-the-counter medicines. The partnership will also concentrate on educating the Greater St. Louis community about the dangers related to the disposal of unused medicine in the trash and water systems.

The Mississippi and Missouri Rivers supply water to more than 14 million people in the river basin. Among those drawing water resources from the rivers are the residents of St. Louis. While St. Louis has received good marks for its traditional water treatment procedures, new challenges have arisen due to enhanced chemical identification techniques that are discovering misguided dumping of medications into these major waterways. The amount of medications going into the rivers is not known.

This is the first partnership of its kind in the State of Missouri and only one of two funded nationally by the EPA this year. This RxMEDS project will provide the USEPA with the ability to collect data on potential medication contamination by tabulating the quantity of expired or excess medications held by a sample population. In addition, the public, especially youth and senior citizens, will learn safe medicine disposal procedures, and thereby make their own homes and lives safer.

Selected Schnucks pharmacies throughout the St. Louis Region will be accepting unwanted medicines from residents on designated Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, January through December 2008. To find a participating Schnucks nearest you, visit the ARCHS RxMEDS website at <http://208.56.227.251/rxmeds.htm>.

Medications collected by Schnucks will be incinerated and plastic bottles will be recycled through the Cintas Corporation.

Volunteers are also needed on Thursdays at each participating Schnucks pharmacy. You may volunteer for as many or as few Thursdays as you would like. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact RxMEDS by email at rxmeds@stlarchs.org or by telephone at 314.289.5629.

ARCHS is a non-profit organization that serves as the official community partnership for the Greater St. Louis Region as designated by the State of Missouri.

January 2008

2

Issue #4

Missouri Municipal Solid Waste Composition Quiz:

See how much you remember after reading the results of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources waste composition study at http://www.dnr.mo.gov/newsrel/nr08_002.htm. Check your answers at the bottom of page 2.

1. What percent of municipal solid waste deposited in Missouri landfills in 2007 was recyclable?
2. If recycled, what was the potential economic value of those landfilled materials as commodities?
3. If recycled, what amount of greenhouse gas emissions could have been avoided?



Where to Recycle Electronics:



During this holiday season, consumer electronics accounted for approximately a quarter of all holiday gifts, according to the Consumer Electronics Association's Holiday Purchase Patterns Study. Many new electronics replaced existing units that no longer worked or became obsolete. If you replaced any electronics this holiday season, why throw the old ones in the trash? Recycle them instead.

Most electronics contain precious metals and other valuable materials that can be recovered. Many electronics also contain hazardous or toxic materials, such as lead and mercury, which can cause environmental problems if discarded in the trash.

Visit www.ecyclestlouis.org to find an electronics recycler nearest you.

Recycle Holiday Light Strands

From now until January 31, 2008, HolidayLEDs.com will accept incandescent holiday light strands for recycling. To recycle your old strands of lights, send them to: HolidayLEDs.com
Attn: Recycling Program
120 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 1403
Jackson, MI 49201
Visit www.HolidayLEDs.com for more information.



When replacing your old incandescent light strands, consider switching to light-emitting diode (L.E.D.) strands. L.E.D. strands last up to 200,000 hours, much longer than standard incandescent strands, which last about 2,000 hours. Simply switching to L.E.D.s can save the equivalent of 100 strands of lights, significantly reducing waste. Additionally, L.E.D. strands use 90% less energy than their incandescent cousins, saving money and resources.

1. 45%; 2. \$208 million; 3. 1.1 million tons