



Blue Bin News

St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter

Shedding Light on CFL Recycling

Many of us have heard that compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 75% less energy and last 10 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. But, some people are still hesitant to make the switch because CFLs contain mercury and in many parts of the U.S., environmentally responsible recycling or disposal options for CFLs have been expensive, inconvenient, and sometimes nonexistent. Well, hold on to your sockets, because The Home Depot has recently introduced a CFL recycling collection program in all 1,973 stores nationwide at no out-of-pocket cost to you.



With this new program available to millions of people across the U.S., Americans can enjoy the benefits of increased energy efficiency, lower electric bills, less light bulb waste, fewer hours spent changing burned out bulbs, reduction of greenhouse gases and other power plant pollutants, as well as the comfort of knowing that each bulb can be easily recycled into new products after it's useful life is over.

At each The Home Depot store, customers can simply bring in any expired, unbroken CFLs, and give them to a store associate behind the returns desk who will place them in a collection bin to await transportation to a recycling facility. For more information about The Home Depot's CFL Recycling Program, visit http://www6.homedepot.com/ecoptions/stage/pdf/cfl_recycle.pdf.

Buy Reused

This summer, wine and dine your guests with products made from reused glass bottles by The Green Glass Company. Products sold locally at Home Eco and Bowood Farms.

www.greenglass.com



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

Upcoming Events

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Native Perennials and Grasses for Landscaping

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Shaw Nature Reserve

<http://shawnature.org/nativeland/NativePlantSchool.aspx>

Where To Recycle-A-Bicycle



Do you have a bicycle that has fallen into disrepair? Did your son or daughter leave their bike behind when they left for college, never to return for it? If you have an old bike lying around not getting much use, you can donate it to St. Louis BicycleWORKS for parts or to be refurbished. If you're looking for a bike that's as good as new, you can purchase a refurbished bike while supporting BicycleWORKS Earn-A-Bike Program. This program welcomes any St. Louis youth between 8 and 18 to apply to participate in classes designed to teach bicycle mechanics, maintenance, and safety. Youths who successfully complete the program earn a refurbished bike and helmet. Learn more at www.stlbikeworks.com.

City of St. Louis Refuse Division's Recycling Program

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

Email: recycle@stlouis.missouri.org

Phone: 353.8877

Zero Waste Parties

Summer is officially here. It's time to break out the grill and get ready for this season's cookouts and gatherings. Following these few tips can help you reduce your waste while hosting a fabulous party:

1. To cut down on paper waste (and save dollars on postage, too), send announcements via email. Sites such as www.evite.com offer attractive and simple invitations.
2. Choose reusable plates, cups, flatware, tablecloths, napkins, etc. If you don't have these items, purchase biodegradable tableware that can be composted at the end of the day.
3. Decorate with food, paper streamers, flowers, rocks, used fabrics and ribbons, etc.
4. In lieu of trash bins, set out recycling and compost bins for party-goers to dispose of waste. Clearly mark the bins and create signs that explain why there are no trash bins.
5. Invite guests to participate in a swap. Ask guests to bring an old puzzle, game, toy, or book that they would like to exchange with others.
6. When planning your party, be sure that the items you purchase are made from and/or packaged in reusable or recyclable materials. And, be sure they are made from or packaged in post-consumer recycled materials.
7. Plan to have just enough food / beverages for the number of guests attending.



Recycling Ad Libitum

Fill in the blanks with your own words to complete the story. 1. adjective 2. person 3. noun 4. noun 5. noun 6. event 7. adjective 8. name 9. verb (past tense) 10. noun 11. adverb 12. type of container 13. adverb 14. noun 15. emotion 16. same noun as in #14 (plural) 17. adverb 18. same noun as in #14 and #16 (plural) 19. verb (present participle) 20. verb (past tense)



Last month, on my way to the recycling center I witnessed something very 1. There was a 2 trying to shove a 3 into one recycling bin and a 4 into another. As I watched what was happening, a 5 approached me and asked what I was doing. I explained that I had a 6 party the night before and needed to drop off my recyclables. After we discussed how 7 the party was, I parked my car and began to unload my recyclables. To my surprise, a recycling fairy named 8 9 out from behind a 10 and asked to see my recyclables. So, I 11 opened my 12 to show her my recyclables. She 13 sifted through my bottles and cans and suddenly pulled out a 14. "What is this doing in here?" Asked the fairy. "This is not recyclable." I was very 15 that 16 were not allowed in the recycling bin. But, if the recycling fairy says it's not allowed, then I will 17 follow her rules. So, I sifted through and picked out all of the 18. "Thank you," said the fairy. "We must make sure the recyclables stay clean, otherwise, the trash troll will start 19 in the recycling bins and turn everything into trash." With that, the fairy 20 into thin air and I've kept my recyclables clean ever since.

Reduce Waste On Vacation

Use these tips to reduce your travel waste:

- Fill reusable containers with shampoo, soap, etc. instead of buying travel-sized toiletries.
- Make reservations electronically to reduce paper waste.
- To pass time on the road, bring scrap paper for drawing and games.
- Start an art project with objects "found" on your trip. Make a collage, sculpture, scrapbook, etc.
- At the beach, use old buckets and other items you already have to build sand castles, instead of buying new products.
- Learn about your destination by borrowing books from the library.
- Use recycling facilities available at hotels, airports, restaurants.



Reader Submissions Welcome

The Recycling Program invites you to submit material for this monthly newsletter. Would you like to share your "how to" tips, upcoming events, or something else related to residential waste management?

E-mail us at recycle@stlouis.missouri.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

To Subscribe

Would you or anyone you know (e.g., family, friends, community leaders) like to receive Blue Bin News?

Contact us at recycle@stlouis.missouri.org or 353.8877 to be added to our e-mailing list for this free publication.