



Blue Bin News

St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter



Holiday Cheer

Dr. Seuss has taught us many lessons throughout the years. For over 50 years, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* has reminded us about what is really important during the holiday season. "After puzzling three hours till his puzzler was sore, the Grinch was forced to conclude that Christmas came from no store." Celebrating the winter holidays doesn't have to break the bank. However, you will spend something more valuable than money to experience the thrill of holiday cheer. You will spend time with family and friends.

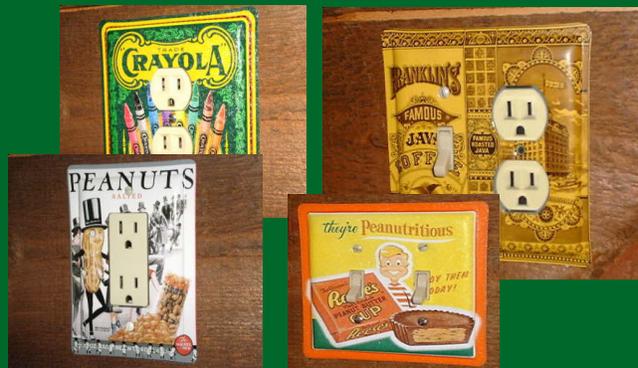
If you are planning to buy gifts from a store, try sticking to Bill McKibben's *Hundred Dollar Holiday* (www.billmckibben.com/books.html), spending only \$100 on gifts for the whole family. Putting this limit on your purchases will inspire creative gift giving. And, how much more creative can you get than gifts made from reused or recycled materials. At <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/buyreusedrecycled.htm> you'll find links to a wide variety of reused and recycled content products.

Years from now, you'll be reminiscing about what people said or did during past holiday get-togethers, not what presents you gave them. Not only will you enjoy each other's company, you'll be reducing the amount of packaging, packing, and gift wrapping waste headed to the landfill. For ideas about how to reduce, reuse, and recycle even more during the holidays, go to http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/documents/holidays_occasions.pdf.

Buy Reused at Tin Can Sally

They hand craft switch plates and outlet covers from used tins.

www.tincansally.com



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

City of St. Louis Refuse Division's Recycling Program

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

Email: recycle@stlouis.missouri.org

Phone: 353.8877 (switchboard)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS REFUSE DIVISION



Create your own snowflakes with used paper. Paper snowflakes can add a wintery touch to any home. Hang them on doors and windows, or from the ceiling. Use them as gift tags or glue them to colored paper (reused, of course) to enhance their beauty. Visit the following websites for instruction on how to make your own snowflakes. And, be sure to reuse them next year and recycle them when they can no longer be reused.

<http://highhopes.com/snowflakes.html>

www.kinderart.com/seasons/dec7.shtml

www.papersnowflakes.com/patterns.htm

Holiday Tree Pickle

What kind of tree should I get this year? Cut trees are usually grown in tree farms, which apply pesticides and fertilizers for quicker growth. Plus, live trees have to be cut down, cannot be reused, and create waste once the holidays are over. But, they can be mulched or composted. Artificial trees don't have to be cut down and can be reused for several years. But, they are usually made from PVC, which is derived from petroleum, and they can't be recycled or composted once they are no longer usable.

How about a potted tree that can be planted after the holidays? Well, planting a tree to absorb the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide is a great idea. But, you'll have to wait until the ground thaws to plant it, which means you'll have to keep it alive long enough for that to happen. Maybe you can decorate a houseplant that is already a part of your home, as long as it's sturdy enough to support any ornaments or lights you plan to apply.

If none of the options above suit your needs, you may be interested in a tree that is made from at least 30% post-consumer recycled materials, can be reused, and is recyclable. It's The Cardboard Tree! Available at www.thecardboardtree.com, this festive tree will provide hours of entertainment for the whole family.

The Cardboard Tree comes as a blank canvas so that you and your family can be creative together by coloring, painting, or gluing glitter, buttons, gems, etc. Purchasing a tree made from recycled materials drives the market for the materials you place in your recycling bin, contributing to the success of recycling programs nationwide. If you store your tree carefully, it can be reused, saving you money and saving live trees from being cut down. As long as you remove any non-recyclable decorations, your tree can be recycled along with the rest of your cardboard.



Recycling Trees

Turn your cut trees into mulch by dropping them off at Carondelet Park, Forest Park, or O'Fallon Park from December 26, 2008 through January 16, 2009.

Holiday trees may also be placed at your property line for your regular monthly bulky collection.



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 353.7176 to be added to our e-mailing list for this free publication.

What Would Jesus Buy?

This time of year brings out the best and worst in us. We yearn to cozy up to a warm crackling fire holding a cup of hot cocoa and watching our favorite movie. Yet, we also fight the long lines and horrific traffic to find the perfect gift for that special someone.

We've mentioned the film "What Would Jesus Buy?" in a previous newsletter. But, given the time of year, we thought this would be an appropriate time to mention it again. In the film WWJB, the end of mankind from consumerism, over-consumption, and eternal debt is on the horizon. This "serious docu-comedy" follows Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping Gospel Choir cross-country while they conduct retail interventions, lead corporate exorcisms, and preach about the coming Shopocalypse.



Producer Morgan Spurlock (also producer of "Super Size Me") and Director Rob VanAlkemede bring light to the commercialization of Christmas. If you are interested in watching the film, check with your local library, or visit <http://www.jbmovie.com> to find a retailer or buy a copy online. Maybe watching WWJB, while curled up next to the fireplace with your hot cocoa, will become a new tradition for you and your family.