



Blue Bin News

St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter

Waste = Money

The average U.S. citizen produces about 5 pounds of waste per day or 1,825 pounds annually. Imagine not being able to take out your trash or recycling for one whole year. Los Angeles resident Dave Chameides did just that. However, instead of storing 1,825 pounds of waste in his house, he ended up with just 30 pounds.



That's less waste than an average person produces in one week. How did he do it? Rather than giving up his favorites, like potato chips and beer, he thought about how he could consume less waste without significantly changing his lifestyle. So, he buys his potato chips in one large bag, rather than many small bags and he looks for beer with the least amount of packaging.



According to the USEPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), approximately 30% of our waste is containers and packaging. So, every year each U.S. citizen buys 600 pounds of packaging material that is discarded after use. Mr. Chameides suggests that people think about what they buy before actually buying it. If you're going to eat the cookies and throw away the wrapper, why buy the wrapper? Even if your cookies come in a box that can be recycled, you are still paying for a box that will be used only once. And, while recycling is an important part of waste management, energy is still consumed and pollution is still produced from the recycling process. If something

is just going to be thrown away or recycled once you're finished with it, look for an alternative that creates less waste.

Below are suggestions to help you get started, visit www.365daysoftrash.com, <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/reduce>, and <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/reuse> for more.

- * Purchase a reusable coffee filter to replace hundreds of paper filters.
- * Substitute zip top bags with reusable containers.
- * Swap your household batteries with rechargeables that can be reused up to 100 times.
- * Consider using a straight razor that can be sharpened rather than disposable razors or refills.
- * Bring your own reusable shopping bags to the store.
- * Create yourself a lunch box with reusable food containers and flatware, cloth napkins, and a Thermos.

Upcoming Events



Tuesday, March 5, 2009

Showing of the film "Taking Root"

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

History Museum's Lee Auditorium

www.ketc.org/teach/communitycinema.asp

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Open Discussion - Green Bins in St. Louis

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

EarthWays Center, 3617 Grandel Square

www.earthwayscenter.org/calendar.html

Wednesday, March 12, 2009

Native Plant Propagation from Seed

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Shaw Nature Reserve, Hwy 100 and I-44

www.shawnature.org/nativeland/

NativePlantSchool.aspx

Saturday & Sunday, March 21 & 22, 2009

Green with Indie Craft and Re-Style Fashion Show

See page 2 for details.

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Home Composting Made Easy Class

6:00 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.

Landscape & Garden with Native Plants Class

7:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.

Nottingham Community Education Center

To sign up, call 314.353.1034

Saturday, March 28, 2009

"Where is Away" Adult Field Trip to a Landfill

8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

EarthWays Center, 3617 Grandel Square

Saturday, March 28, 2009

Composting Completely

1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

EarthWays Center, 3617 Grandel Square

<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/calendar.html>



Buy Recycled Lumber

Plastic Lumber Company of America, LLC
www.plasticlumberco.com



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

Green with Indie Craft Fair & Re-Style Fashion Show



Spring Fashion Week 2009 is right around the corner and runway shows around country will give us our first look at the fashions that will permeate our culture this year. Creativity and innovation contribute to the dynamic nature of fashion and at this year's Re-Style Fashion Show, clothes made from re-

used and recycled materials will add an extra dimension to consider.

The fashion show will be accompanied by a two-day craft fair featuring many local artists showing their reused, recycled, and sustainable creations. In an effort to create no waste at the event, plastic bags have been banned from the fair. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own reusable bags. Additionally, you can receive coupons to use at participating vendors' booths by donating your old art and craft supplies (e.g., paint, fabric, buttons, beads, bottle caps, etc.) for reuse at the Freecycle Booth. The event is being held at:

Webster University's Grant Gym
8300 Big Bend, Webster Groves, 63119
Craft Fair and Fashion Show
Saturday, March 21, 2009
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Craft Fair Only
Sunday, March 22, 2009
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
www.greenwithindiecraftshow.com

Landfill Adventures



Fill in the blanks with your own words to complete the story.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to journey into a landfill? Well, I had a **adjective** dream that I **verb (past tense)** through a tunnel to the bottom of a landfill and saw some **adjective** things along the way. About 5 feet down, I didn't see much except a **adjective** newspaper that was dated February 1, 2009. But once I got 20 feet down, I saw a **adjective** newspaper that was dated October 26, 1974. The newspaper was in perfect condition. Because there's no oxygen in a landfill, things take a very long time to break down. After **verb (present participle)** another 20 feet or so, I decided to stop for a break. The terrain was quite difficult to **verb** on. I had to watch my step for **adjective** objects like **noun (plural)** and **noun (plural)**. Looking around the place I had stopped, I noticed a small **noun**. I was very **adjective**. I wondered who had owned it before it ended up in the landfill and why they had thrown it away. As I approached the bottom, I saw so many **noun (plural)**, **noun (plural)**, and **noun (plural)** that looked like new. I was sure there were people who would have liked them just the way they were. But now they would spend the rest of eternity in a landfill. Just then, I woke up. What a **adjective** dream.

City of St. Louis Refuse Division's Recycling Program

Archived issues available at
<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/residentialnewsletter.html>

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? Feel Free to 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? Feel free to contact us at recycle@stlouis.missouri.org or 622.4800 to be added to our e-mailing list for this free publication.

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