



# Blue Bin News

## St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter

### Getting More Out of Less For Father's Day

In 1910, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, organized the first Father's Day celebration in the U.S. Since then, it has become a national holiday that is observed on the third Sunday of June and has gained worldwide attention as a day to recognize the contributions our fathers have made.



The best gift we can give our fathers is to spend quality time with them. Instead of buying dad a hammer or tie, consider having a picnic in his honor, or take him out to eat. Granted, many of us will still splurge on a physical gift. Sixty-seven percent of respondents in a 2009 National Retail Federation study said they would purchase a greeting card for dad this year. If you plan to give greeting cards, consider sending electronic cards. Or, be sure your card is made from post-consumer recycled paper.

However you celebrate Father's Day, try to think of what dad likes and figure out ways to include reducing, reusing, and/or recycling. For example, if dad takes great pride in his lawn or garden, spend the day building him a compost bin. He'll be able to turn yard waste into black gold that will be a great fertilizer, mulch, or lawn amendment. His use of compost will reduce or eliminate the need for synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, improving his health so you can spend many more Father's Days together.

If he likes to tinker around the house, find out what he plans to do for his next project. Then, take a trip to Habitat for Humanity's ReStore for supplies. You'll find cabinets, doors, light fixtures, tiles, plumbing supplies, etc. just waiting for a new home. Since most of the materials have been used, you can find very unique pieces to add character to dad's home. Visit [www.habitatstl.org](http://www.habitatstl.org) for details.

### June 2009 Upcoming Events

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

**June 8-10, 2009** - Missouri Recycling Association Annual Conference  
[www.mora.org/conference/upcoming\\_conferences](http://www.mora.org/conference/upcoming_conferences)



### A Tip From You

In our May newsletter, we challenged you to shop with a grocery list to reduce food waste. We also suggested placing reusable shopping bags at the top of your list to remind you to grab them on your way out the door.

St. Louis resident, Gaylene, shared her tip about how you can always remember your reusable bags: "I have found that keeping my reusable shopping bags in the trunk of our car is the best way to make sure [you] always have them along when shopping." Gaylene says after unpacking her groceries at home, she hangs the reusable bags on the door handle to remind her to put them back in the trunk of her car. Thanks for the great tip, Gaylene!

### Survey Results



In the Fall of 2007, the City of St. Louis Refuse Division contracted Patrick Engineering to conduct a citywide recycling survey using grant funds awarded by the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District.

The purpose of the survey was to gather citizens' opinions about recycling. By gathering public opinion, the Refuse Division now has a greater understanding of what programs and services are valued by residents. This information will help us better serve the public.

The results of this survey are posted at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/surveyresults.html>. Feel free to browse through the survey to see what your fellow St. Louisans had to say.

Answer: Find out how you can recycle televisions, computers, phones, cameras and more at [www.ecyclestlouis.org](http://www.ecyclestlouis.org).



## “Save the Trees” Paper Towel Design Contest

Marcacal, a paper product company that manufactures their goods from post-consumer recycled paper, is holding a contest for artwork that will be displayed on their paper towels. Designs will be judged using the following criteria: (a) Communication of the “appreciation for trees” theme, (b) Originality/Creativity, and (c) Appeal. All designs must be submitted no later than June 30, 2009. The winner will win a trip to Sequoia National Park. Details are available at [www.marcalsmallsteps.com/contest.html](http://www.marcalsmallsteps.com/contest.html).

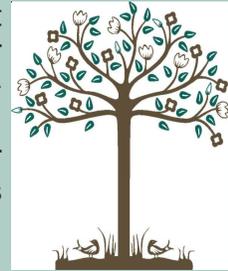
If you must buy disposable paper towels, it is important to be sure they are made from post-consumer recycled material. The largest part of an average U.S. citizen’s waste is in the form of paper or cardboard products. If your paper products don’t contain recycled material, that means trees were cut down to make those products. Trees provide us with food, oxygen, and habitat for many plants and animals. As we cut down the trees, we create areas of deforestation, causing many environmental, health, and social problems. It’s been estimated that 80% of the world’s forests have already been destroyed. Help save the trees by reducing, reusing, and recycling paper products.

**REDUCE:** (1) Buy products with the least amount of packaging, (2) Buy in bulk or concentrated form to reduce packaging, (3) Copy and/or print double-sided, (4) Set page margins to print on the least number of sheets, (5) Broadcast information via a bulletin board rather than copies per person, (6) Cancel unwanted mailers or subscriptions, (7) Correspond electronically, (8) Edit on the screen, rather than printing and editing.

**REUSE:** (1) Replace paper plates with reusable plates or bowls, (2) Replace paper cups with reusable glasses, cups, or mugs, (3) Replace paper towels and napkins with reusable cloth versions, (4) Replace facial tissues with reusable handkerchiefs, (5) Reuse envelopes by placing labels over the typed or written areas.

**RECYCLE:** (1) Use the Refuse Division’s twenty-seven dropoff recycling sites <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle> to recycle newspapers, magazines, office paper, etc., (2) Compost paper plates, towels, and napkins, (3) Find a paper recycling bin at a local school, place of worship, or other nonprofit by visiting [www.paperretriever.com](http://www.paperretriever.com).

**BUY RECYCLED:** (1) Buy paper products made from post-consumer recycled materials.



## Preparing For the Digital Transition on June 12

Solve the cryptogram. See page 1 for the answer.

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
																D									

**D**  
C O L Q I D E T I H U I D Y K L P X Y U Y M X

E X M X V O R O I L R Y I N A D E X P R A T I L X R

**D**  
Y K N X P K R K L Q N I P X K E

H H H X Y U Y M X R E M I D O R I P W

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

Archived issues available at

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

### Reader Submissions Welcome

Feel free 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](mailto: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](mailto:recycle@stlouis.missouri.org) to be added to our e-mailing list for this free publication.

