



# Blue Bin News

## St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter

### Add Some Recycled Flare To Independence Day

Two hundred and thirty-three years of Independence is something worth celebrating. Instead of celebrating with fireworks this Fourth of July, consider these festive alternatives that will light up your night without endangering yourself, catching something on fire, frightening pets, or creating hazardous waste.



- \* Fill used paper bags with confetti cut from used paper (e.g., colorful magazines). Blow air into the bag, twist the top closed, and at just the right moment, pop the bag open to release a shower of confetti.
- \* Create homemade noise-makers by filling paper towel rolls with uncooked beans or rice, tape or staple the ends shut, and decorate with paint, markers, fabrics, ribbons, etc. Then, shake away!
- \* Capture fireflies in used glass jars and enjoy the lightening show. Be sure to poke holes in the lids for air and remember to let them free before the end of the night.
- \* Decorate used glass jars with paint, or glue patriotic scraps of fabric to the outside of the jar. Place a votive candle inside or use as a flower vase.
- \* Safe sparklers are great for decoration, and children can play with them without the risk of being burned. Simply find something lying around the house that can be used as the sparkler stick (e.g., scrap dowel rods, twigs, old wire hangers, etc.). Save foil wrappers (e.g., chip bags), or collect them from family, friends, neighbors, etc. Using scissors, cut the foil into long, thin strips. Gather a handful of foil strips, tape them together at one end, and attach to the stick. Voilà, an instant sparkler.



### July 2009 Upcoming Events

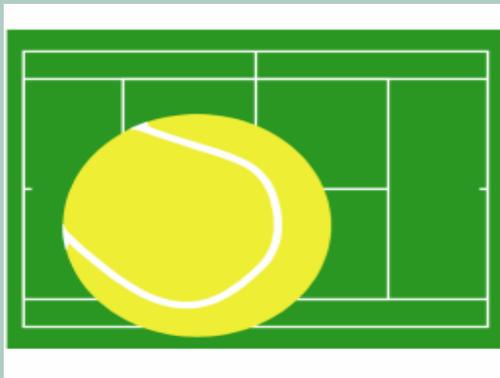
Details available at  
<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/calendar.html>

Thursday, July 9, 2009 - Native Plant School - Native Perennials and Grasses  
[www.shawnature.org/nativeland/NativePlantSchool.aspx](http://www.shawnature.org/nativeland/NativePlantSchool.aspx)



### Buy Reused & Recycled Tennis Balls from Reboundes

[www.reboundes.com](http://www.reboundes.com)



They collect used tennis balls that have lost their bounce, repressurize them, and sell them at a fraction of the cost of new balls.

### Dropoff Recycling

Do you recycle at one of the City's dropoff locations? Did you know there are 27 dropoff sites to choose from. At <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/locations.htm> you will find a map and list of address to help you find the sites closest to where you live, work, or play.

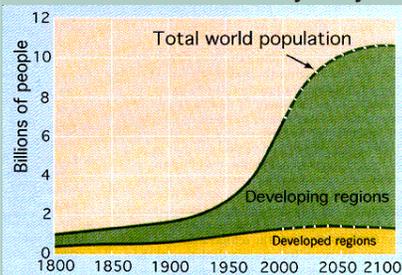


Answers: (1) 1,223 Boeing 747's; (2) 3,544 Boeing 747's; (3) 75,949 Boeing 747's; (4) 106,329 Boeing 747's



## Six Billion People and Counting

As long as the world has been turning, it has been changing while simultaneously staying the same. Within the earth, mountains have grown and eroded, oceans have risen and fallen, and forests have turned into deserts. Although the world's landscape has changed over the years, the sphere that is Earth has not. It has not changed in size for billions of years; it contains the same amount of water as it has for billions of years; and although it may look different than it did when dinosaurs walked, Earth's resources have virtually stayed the same. That is, until now.



Throughout human history, we have utilized resources needed to survive. Now, we are using them faster than they can be replaced, causing a depletion. One reason for our increased consumption is that world population has been increasing exponentially. Since 1800 A.D., world population has increased from 1 billion to over 6 billion, and 6 billion people require a lot more resources than 1 billion.

Another reason why our resources are being depleted faster than they are being restored is that each person is consuming much more than before. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that in 1960, each U.S. citizen generated 2.7 pounds of waste per day. In 2007, that number had jumped to 4.6 pounds. When we landfill or incinerate our waste, it doesn't disappear, but is changed into a form that is useless to us and therefore, we have to extract more virgin resources to replace the ones we wasted, sharing fewer useful resources with more people. To conserve these resources and ensure future generations have the materials necessary to survive, we must all REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE.

Yes, you are only one person, but our City has about 350,000 residents. You can start the journey with just one step at a time, such as by reducing, reusing, or recycling even one material. Then, you'll be able to take more steps yourself and/or help other residents take a step. The next thing you know, many residents are taking many steps, which can make a big difference. Take your first step: Go to <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle> to find out what you can do.

### United Nations World Population Estimates

1650 - 0.5 billion
1800 - 1.0 billion
1850 - 1.3 billion
1900 - 1.7 billion
1950 - 2.5 billion
1960 - 3.0 billion
1970 - 3.7 billion
1980 - 4.5 billion
1990 - 5.3 billion
2000 - 6.1 billion
2009 - 6.7 billion to date
2020 - 7.7 billion projected
2030 - 8.3 billion projected
2040 - 8.8 billion projected
2050 - 9.2 billion projected



### Measuring Our Waste

1. In 1960, the U.S. population was about 179 million people. At 2.7 pounds of waste per person per day, the U.S. generated over *483 million* pounds of waste every day. How many Boeing 747's are equivalent to the amount of waste generated daily by the U.S. in 1960?
2. As of June 25, 2009, the population of the U.S. was more than 306 million people. At 4.6 pounds of waste per person per day, the U.S. now generates over *1.4 billion* pounds of waste each day. How many Boeing 747's are equivalent to the amount of waste we generate daily?
3. If all 6.7 billion people in the world today generated the same amount of waste as U.S. citizens do, we would create over *30 billion* pounds of waste per day. How many Boeing 747's are equivalent to the amount of waste we would generate daily if everyone in the world wasted as much as we do today?
4. If each person in the world generates 4.6 pounds of waste per day in 2050, we will create over *42 billion* pounds of waste every day. How many Boeing 747's are equivalent to the amount of waste that will be generated daily in 2050 if everyone in the world wastes as much as the U.S. does today?



Note: An empty Boeing 747 weighs about 395,000 pounds. See page 1 for answers.

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

#### Reader Submissions Welcome

E-mail submissions to  
[recycle@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:recycle@stlouis.missouri.org).

#### To Subscribe

Would you or anyone you know 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.

