



# Blue Bin News

## St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter



### Lazy Days of Dumpster Dipping

Whether they hold trash, yard waste, or recyclables, dumpsters are perceived as dirty, smelly, containers that temporarily hold the items we no longer want. But, a creative group in New York City has turned that perception 180 degrees, making dumpsters a hot commodity desired by many. But, who would want a used dumpster, and why?

In an effort to repurpose (use something old in a new way), a company called Macro-Sea decided to turn large dumpsters, known as rolloffs, into swimming pools. On an industrial lot, with the owner's permission (and an insurance policy), Macro-Sea developed an urban paradise boasting three connected swimming pools, housed in dumpsters. To transform them into swimming pools, the dumpsters were cleaned, coarse edges were filed down, the bottoms were covered with sand, they were lined in plastic, and a filtration system was installed. To improve function and aesthetics, a deck was built around the dumpsters and furnished with tables, chairs, and cabanas.

The dumpster pools have generated a lot of attention since opening over the Fourth of July weekend. The space has hosted invite-only barbecues, photo shoots, and even a film screening. Macro-Sea hopes to redevelop strip malls into artsy community destinations, with dumpster pools for rent and other attractions. Click on the link [www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2009/07/20/arts/design/20090720](http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2009/07/20/arts/design/20090720) to watch a slideshow of the hottest dumpster pool club in New York.

### August 2009 Upcoming Events

Details available at

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



**Tuesday, August 18** - St. Louis Green Drinks Book Swap & Discussion  
[www.stlgreendrinks.org](http://www.stlgreendrinks.org)

**Tuesday, August 25** - Green Kitchens Class at the EarthWays Center  
[www.earthwayscenter.org/calendar.html](http://www.earthwayscenter.org/calendar.html)

### I Love Trash

[www.snagfilms.com/films/title/i\\_love\\_trash](http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/i_love_trash)



"I Love Trash is a documentary about dumpster diving. Two friends decide to do an experiment in trash. They rent an unfurnished apartment and arrive with only the clothes they are wearing and a flashlight. They decide not to buy any things for 3 months and instead to find all their needs in the trash. They furnish their apartment lavishly. They eat decadently. They dress sharp, and create beautiful art, all from the trash."

Although dumpster diving may not be for everyone, this film illustrates the potential value of our waste. Much of what we throw away could be reused in some way, shape, or form. Help give unwanted items a new chance at life instead of sending them to the trash. Visit <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/MaterialExchanges.html> for links to places you can find or post items for reuse. Or, go to <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/PickupCharities.html> for a list of charities that pickup donations.

Answers from top to bottom  
All of these materials can be reused, recycled, or composted.  
aluminum, yard waste, glass, cardboard, textiles, plastic, electronics, steel, food waste, paper

Answers from top to bottom





## School's Back From Summer

For kindergartners to college students, it's time to pull out the backpacks and dust off the days of summer. Check out how you can complete the recycling loop while preparing for school this year.

First, make a list and stick to it to ensure you're buying only what is needed. Before purchasing items on the list, take an inventory of what you already have hidden in backpack pockets or drawers throughout your home. When searching for the items on your list, consider purchasing reused or recycled versions to close the recycling loop and drive the market for materials you recycle. For example, when buying any paper products, such as notebooks, loose leaf paper, boxes of tissue, etc., look for paper made from the highest percent of post-consumer recycled materials available. Also, look for post-consumer recycled pencils, binders, rulers, etc. For a list of vendors selling reused and recycled school supplies, visit <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/RecycledOfficeSupplies.html>.

Be sure to give preference to items that can be reused rather than disposed of. Invest in a lunch box or bag and reusable food containers and flatware. Consider refillable pens and pencils. Reduce battery waste with solar powered calculators.

Even if you are no longer in school and have no children in school, remember that donations of school supplies are always welcome. Whether you buy new (reused and recycled) products or donate your surplus, the following organizations would appreciate anything you can offer.

I Love Schools, Inc. [www.iloveschools.com](http://www.iloveschools.com)

Kidsmart [www.agift4teaching.org](http://www.agift4teaching.org)

Leftovers, etc. [www.leftoversetc.com](http://www.leftoversetc.com)

St. Louis Teachers' Recycle Center, Inc. [www.stlouisteachersrecyclehomestead.com/index.html](http://www.stlouisteachersrecyclehomestead.com/index.html)

## Buy Reused & Recycled Backpacks/Messenger Bags



For links to vendors selling these products go to <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/RecycledApparel.html>.

### 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.

## Word Scrambler

Unscramble each of the clue words. Then, copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number to solve the hidden message.

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