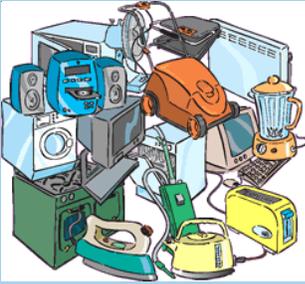




Blue Bin News

St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter



Networks for Giving and Getting

Last month we explored resources designed to help people lend, share, rent, or give away useful items or services with family, friends, neighbors, etc. Similarly, there are networks called “material exchanges,” in which you can find new homes for products you no longer want or search for items you want or need. Some of these networks, such as www.gigoit.org (created by St. Louis natives Peter Schmalfeldt and John Kramlich), www.freecycle.org, www.kashless.org, and www.throwplace.com, require that all transactions be free. Other exchanges, such as <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MissouriMarketplace>, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stlkidcycle>, and <http://stlouis.craigslist.org>, offer an outlet for swapping, buying, and selling used items.

While many of the material exchanges are online resources, Habitat for Humanity St. Louis operates the ReStore (www.habitatstl.org) at 3763 Forest Park Avenue. The ReStore accepts donations of new and used building and construction materials and sells them to the public at discounted prices.

There are also networks that collect donations of unwanted items to distribute to specific groups. For example, Leftovers, etc. (www.leftoversetc.com) and St. Louis Teachers' Recycle Center, Inc. (www.stlouisteachersrecycle.homestead.com) provide educators with discarded items for use as supplies and learning tools. The Upcycle Exchange (www.upxchange.com) is a local organization collecting supplies for Indie crafters in St. Louis.

For details about these organizations, as well as additional material exchanges visit <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/MaterialExchanges.html>.



Go Gothic

The University of Wisconsin recently changed its campus e-mail default font from Arial to Century Gothic because they say, when printed, it uses 30% less ink or toner. However, the new font also takes up a bit more space. So, if you change your font (or even if you don't), be sure to set your page margins to 0.5 inches to reduce paper consumption. Before printing documents, use the “print preview” function to review the page(s) and make an effort to print on both sides of the paper. When printing drafts or informal documents, print in black ink only and turn on the “economy” or “draft” mode to save even more ink. While these small steps can add up to big savings, for you and the environment, not printing is the best option. When possible, send and save letters, reports, articles, etc. electronically.

August 2010 Upcoming Events

Details available at

<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/calendar2010.html>



Preserving the Harvest - August 5, 2010 (Thursday) - 7pm to 9pm
www.earthwayscenter.org/calendar.html

Recycled Art Festival - August 7-8, 2010 (Saturday) - 10am to 5pm, (Sunday) - 1130am to 5pm
www.magichouse.org/events-family.php

Bug Day - August 14, 2010 (Saturday) - 9am to 130pm
www.dnr.mo.gov/calendar/public/calendarParksSearch.do

Blue Ribbon Canning Class - August 21, 2010 (Saturday) - 10am to 1pm
www.kitchenconservatory.com

Recycled Island



In past issues of Blue Bin News, we've discussed the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a mass of discarded plastic floating in a large gyre of the Pacific Ocean. Plastics from all over the world have accumulated in the gyre, and although everyone agrees that it should be cleaned up, no one has been able to figure out where to begin. That is, until now.

The Netherlands Architecture Fund has provided grant funding to architecture firm WHIM for the research and design of "Recycled Island," an island built from the plastic floating in the Pacific gyre. The major goals of the project are to clean up the ocean and create a sea-

worthy island suitable for sustainable habitation.

While still in the research phase of this project, it's unclear if Recycled Island will ever become a reality. Regardless, it is an excellent example of how creative thinking can help us turn waste into resources. Details about this project are online at www.recycledisland.com.

Animal Companions in Need of Supplies

By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, most of the homeless animals housed at the City of St. Louis Animal Care and Control facility on Gasconade Street will have already been moved to Stray Rescue of St. Louis' new building at 1463 South 18th Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63104. Even though the new facility will offer more services to animals seeking permanent homes, donations of new and used pet supplies are still of vital importance to the daily operations at Stray Rescue. Their wishlist (<http://strayrescue.org/node/76>) includes everything from blankets to wire crates. To arrange for a donation, contact Stray Rescue at 314.771.6121.



Another local organization dedicated to the welfare of animals is the Bi-State Pet Food Pantry (www.bistatepetfoodpantry.org). Instead of finding homes for pets, they provide emergency assistance with pet food to animal guardians during financially difficult times, so that the people and animals can stay together. Donations of opened or unopened bags of pet food, treats, and litter are appreciated. In the City of St. Louis, donations can be dropped off at all St. Louis Petco locations and at Pets in the City. To view the wishlist and other drop-off locations throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan Area, visit the Bi-State Pet Food Pantry website listed above.

Animal Companions (Continued)

If you're considering adding a new animal companion to your family, remember the many homeless animals that desperately need a new home. Check your local telephone book under "Animal Protection Organizations," "Animal Rescue," "Animal Shelter and Support Services," etc. Also, spay or neuter your pets, to prevent others from becoming homeless, neglected, or abused.

Buy Reused and Recycled Animal Supplies

Litter made from reused newspaper, collars made from old neckties, and leashes made from recycled milk jugs are just a few of the unique products available for our furry friends.



Many reused and recycled content products are available at St. Louis' Four Muddy Paws (www.fourmuddypaws) and Pets in The City (www.thecitypet.com). Additional products are posted on our website at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/RecycledPet.html>.

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To Subscribe e-mail recycle@stlouis.missouri.org.

Archived Issues Available at <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/residentialnewsletter.html>.

