



Blue Bin News

St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter

Glass Recycling Week

This year the Glass Packaging Institute will celebrate Glass Recycling Week September 12th-18th. Glass recycling is a great example of sustainability because glass can be recycled infinitely without losing any quality. Glass manufacturers, such as Saint-Gobain Containers (a leading producer of glass packaging, located in Pevely, Missouri), prefer to use as much recycled glass, aka cullet, in their manufacturing process as possible.

Using cullet to make new glass products requires less energy than virgin materials because cullet melts at a lower temperature. Using cullet also reduces energy consumption and prevents pollution associated with the extraction and processing of virgin materials. Most glass products or packaging already contain recycled material, so when you buy glass, you are also closing the recycling loop. Additionally, glass is inert, which prevents chemicals from leaching into food and/or drinks. To celebrate Glass Recycling Week, pledge to recycle as much of your glass waste as possible, then, complete an online scavenger hunt at www.gpi.org for your chance to win \$50 cash, an iPod Shuffle, a T-shirt, or a reusable glass bottle.



Clever Ways to Reuse Glass Bottles



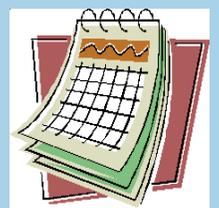
While recycling provides economic, environmental, and social benefits for our community, reusing materials offers even more benefits than recycling. In honor of Glass Recycling Week, discover the many ways you can reuse glass.

Reusing colorful glass bottles as a building and construction material can add a beautiful element to any project. Glass containers can be reused to make walls, partitions, countertops, light fixtures, mulch, etc. There are companies who craft jewelry from pieces of glass bottles and jars. Others create glass tumblers, vases, bowls, plates, and candle accessories from reused glass. Some projects, like making jewelry, or cutting your used wine bottles into glass tumblers or vases, can be done easily at home. However, building a wall or installing a countertop made from reused glass, might require additional research or professional installation. To find a list of products made from reused glass or other reused and recycled materials, visit <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/buyreusedrecycled.htm>.

September 2010 Upcoming Events

Details available at

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



Native Plant Sale - September 10, 2010 (Friday) - 4pm to 8pm
www.shawnature.org

Home Composting Class - September 16, 2010 (Thursday) - 6pm to 650pm
<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/calendar2010.html>

Landscape and Garden with Native Plants Class - September 16, 2010 (Thursday) - 7pm to 750pm
<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/calendar2010.html>

Indoor Composting: Worm Bins - September 20, 2010 (Monday) - 7pm to 830pm
[www.stlcc.edu/Continuing Education/Register for Class Offerings.html](http://www.stlcc.edu/Continuing%20Education/Register%20for%20Class%20Offerings.html) Ecology course #11208

Green Homes Festival - September 25, 2010 (Saturday) - 10am to 6pm
www.greenhomesstl.org

Ameren UE Appliance Recycling Program

AmerenUE can help you lower your monthly energy bills - and pay you for it! They will give you \$35 to recycle working refrigerators or freezers manufactured prior to 2002. They'll even pick it up free of charge and properly recycle it!

While your spare refrigerator or freezer sitting in your garage or basement may provide additional storage, you can save up to \$100 annually on your electric bill by removing and recycling them.

Actual energy and cost savings will vary by equipment model and region. Estimates are conservative and based on national averages. Rebate check to be mailed within 4 - 6 weeks after pick-up of refrigerator or freezer.

If you are an AmerenUE residential electric customer, you've already met the first participation guideline! Additionally, the refrigerator or freezer must be: used as a secondary, not primary, unit; owned by you and be 10 - 27 cubic feet; manufactured prior to 2002; in working (cooling) condition; plugged in the night prior to pick-up.

Make an appointment online (www.Uefficiency.com/recycle) or call 877.341.2187.



Dive!

"Dive!, a documentary about food waste in America by first-time filmmaker Jeremy Seifert, has been taking the film-festival circuit by storm. Why would a movie about a bunch of friends grazing garbage in the Los Angeles suburbs garner so much



attention? It's not for the shock value, insists Seifert, but more about the subject matter's connection to the most pressing environmental issues of our time. 'If you Dumpster dive and actually eat trash, it becomes normal for you,' says Seifert. 'but food waste is intimately connected to water issues, fuel issues - the food industry uses more fuel than any other sector of the economy - pollution issues, abuse of the soil and overuse of pesticides. The devastation to the environment is immense.' While quirky and entertaining, Seifert's 45-minute documentary is also sobering, questioning why so much food is thrown away in the same communities where people go hungry, and offering hard numbers that show our landfills are eating better than our poor.

One of the film's great strengths is that it offers a solution, and that is simply to stop wasting food. 'It has to start in the home first, but the big push we're working on is schools,' explains Seifert. 'We want schools to go zero waste...' '...We're [also] trying to pressure Whole Foods and Trader Joe's to adopt zero waste corporate policies,' he says, offering that such a move would certainly provide a fitting end to the next cut of his film. Learn more at www.divethefilm.com."

Source: *BioCycle*, July 2010.

Green Homes Festival

When: Saturday, September 25, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Where: EarthWays Center at 3600 block of Grandel Square, between Grand Boulevard and Spring Avenue.

Come explore a variety of green exhibitors, vendors, workshops, and children's activities. Workshops and demonstrations on sustainable living practices will include solar and wind energy, home and vehicle efficiency, urban farming, native plants, composting, recycling, and more. Details available at www.greenhomesstl.org.

Where To Recycle... ...Window Glass



Installing new windows? What can you do with the old ones? Recycle them at Strategic Materials, 24 Branch Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63147. Strategic Materials will accept window glass that has been removed from the frame. For more information visit their website at

www.strategicmaterials.com.

A City of St. Louis Refuse Division Recycling Program Publication

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

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

