

BLUE BIN NEWS

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How To Host A Green Thanksgiving



To make your Thanksgiving celebration as green as possible, start with the three Rs of conservation: **Reduce**, **Reuse** and **Recycle**.

Reduce the amount of waste you produce by buying only as much as you need and choosing products that come in packaging that can be recycled. Carry **reusable** bags when you do your shopping, and use cloth napkins that can be washed and used again.

Recycle paper, and all plastic, glass and aluminum containers. If you don't already have a compost bin, use your Thanksgiving fruit and vegetable trimmings to start one. The compost will enrich the soil in your garden next spring.

Buying only locally grown food is one good way to have a green Thanksgiving. Locally grown food is good for your table, your health and the environment. Locally grown food tastes better than food that has to be grown and packaged for maximum shelf life, and it requires less fuel to reach store shelves. Locally grown food also contributes more to your local economy, supporting local farmers as well as local merchants.



If you drive, use less fuel and lower your emissions by making sure your car is in good working order and your tires are properly inflated. If possible, carpool to reduce the number of cars on the road and lower the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to air pollution and global warming.

Resources for Home Composting

Thanksgiving is an ideal time to begin a home compost bin with unused leftover fruits and vegetables. Below are some helpful publications and websites to reference:



Books:



Campbell, Stu. *Let It Rot!: The Home Gardener's Guide to Composting*. North Adams, MA: Storey Publishing, 1998.

Martin, Deborah L. and Grace Gershuny. *The Rodale Book of Composting*. Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press, 1992.



Websites:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources: www.dnr.mo.gov/alpd/swmp/composting/compost1.htm

City of St. Louis Refuse Division: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/compost.html>

Biocycle Magazine: Journal of Composting and Organics Recycling: www.jgpress.com/biocycle.htm

Holiday Lights Recycling Drive

Bring any unwanted holiday lights to be recycled from **November 17** to **December 30** at over 98 Wal-Mart stores and other drop-off locations throughout Missouri. A portion of the proceeds benefits Operation Food Search. Check out their website for locations and other ways to participate: <http://stlouisgreen.com/Holiday-Light-Recycling-Drive>.

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Reader Submissions Welcomed!

Share your waste management questions, activities, "how to" tips, calendar items, etc.

Email Blue Bin News at recycle@stlouis-mo.gov

