

## HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON SAINT LOUIS COUNTY!



Did you know that each year between Thanksgiving and New Year's one million tons of extra household trash is generated every week? Now that Saint Louis County has single-stream recycling, it is even easier to be green during the holidays, since the majority of waste in your house can go into the recycling cart. Here are some quick recycling ideas for this holiday season. For the complete 2009 holiday guide, visit [www.RecycleSaintLouis.com](http://www.RecycleSaintLouis.com).

### Wrapping and Packaging:

- ♦ Plan for recycling! All non-foil wrapping paper and gift boxes can be recycled in your curbside bin or at recycling drop-off locations.
  - ♦ Save large pieces of wrapping paper, bows, ribbons, and tissues for reuse or craft projects.
  - ♦ Think beyond rolls of gift-wrapping and bags of bows. Be creative while reducing waste! Use scarves, handkerchiefs, or bandanas as wrappers, and wrap two gifts together!
- ♦ Use original wrapping such as old maps, kids colored pages, newsprint, comics, or a decorated brown paper shopping bag.

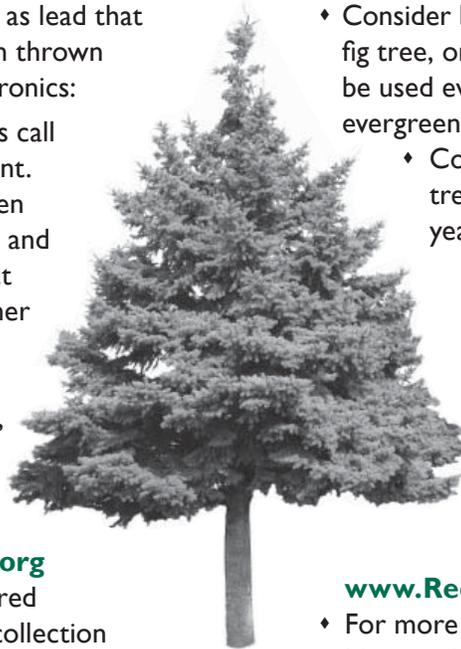
### Pulling the Plug on Electronics:

Many electronics contain toxic substances such as lead that threaten environmental and human health when thrown away. Here are some easy ways to handle electronics:

- ♦ Donate working equipment to charity. Always call first to make sure they can use your equipment.
- ♦ Ask retailers to take your old electronics when you purchase new ones. In addition, Best Buy and American have recycling programs that collect TVs, computers, VCRs, DVD players, and other electronics. Details can be found at [www.bestbuy.com/recycling](http://www.bestbuy.com/recycling) and [www.americantv.com/pages/e-cycle.jsp](http://www.americantv.com/pages/e-cycle.jsp), or you can visit one of their customer service desks for more information.
- ♦ Go to the **e-cycle St. Louis** website at [www.ecyclestlouis.org](http://www.ecyclestlouis.org) for a listing of registered electronics collection locations.

### Christmas Trees:

- ♦ Consider buying a potted Norfolk pine, fig tree, or indoor houseplant that can be used every holiday season as your evergreen tree.
  - ♦ Consider buying an artificial tree that can be reused every year.
    - ♦ Real Christmas trees are considered yard waste. If you don't have yard waste as part of your trash service, trees can be taken to a compost facility. A list of facilities is provided in the Holiday Recycling Guide at [www.RecycleSaintLouis.com](http://www.RecycleSaintLouis.com).
- ♦ For more environmentally-friendly ideas such as reusing live trees, visit the website of the Missouri Department of Conservation at [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov).



# UNIQUE GIFT IDEAS

Over the years, the holiday season has become more and more commercialized. According to the National Retail Federation, shoppers spent a total of \$446.6 billion during the 2008 holiday season. However, by **reducing, reusing, and recycling**, you can create environmentally friendly traditions and memories this winter.



In addition to waste-reducing gift alternatives, you can buy recycled content products. Look for the words “post consumer” or “recycled content” when shopping. Check out our Buy Recycled Guide at [www.RecycleSaintLouis.com](http://www.RecycleSaintLouis.com) for more information. The guide lists items made with recycled content that can be purchased throughout the year, many of which are available locally.

Living green does not mean giving up gift giving. Some waste-reducing alternatives to traditional gift-giving include:



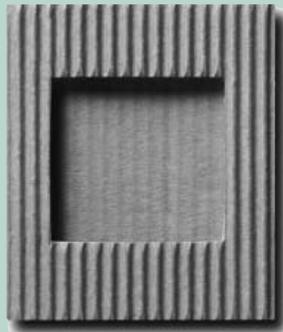
- Tickets to a concert, play, or sporting event
- Coupons or vouchers for a chore or service
- A family recipe book printed on recycled paper
- A collection of pictures commemorating a special event or vacation
- A coupon good for a loaf of homemade bread, soup, or a dozen cookies
- A beloved old toy, rocking chair, or other family heirloom repaired and handed down to the next generation



## RECYCLED PICTURE FRAME

### What you need:

- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Photograph
- Piece of corrugated cardboard, 9 by 11 inches
- Piece of smooth cardboard, 10 by 12 inches
- Craft glue or rubber cement
- Your choice of decorations



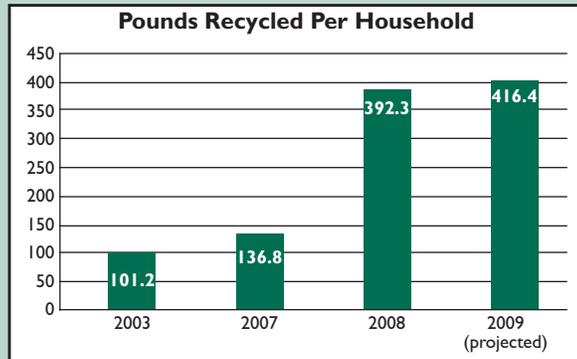
### What you do:

1. Use the ruler to help you center the photograph on the smooth side of the corrugated cardboard, and outline the edges of the photo onto the cardboard with a pencil.
2. Use the craft knife to make the frame for the photo by cutting around the inside of the box you just drew. Remember to put an extra piece of cardboard under your project so you don't cut the surface you're working on with the craft knife! (Younger artists should have parents assist with the cutting.)
3. Glue the photo in the center of the 10 by 12 inch piece of smooth cardboard. Spread glue on the back of the corrugated cardboard frame, center it around the photo, and press it against the smooth cardboard, which will act as the back of the frame.
4. Decorate with reused ribbons, colored construction paper, or other items.

\*\*\* 'Tis the Season to Recycle! \*\*\*

# COUNTY RECYCLING: A PROGRESS REPORT

It has been over a year since recycling became a part of basic trash service for one and two family homes in all of Saint Louis County. Many residents have been amazed at how little trash they put at the curb now, and they should be! We have increased the pounds of recycling per household by over 300%!

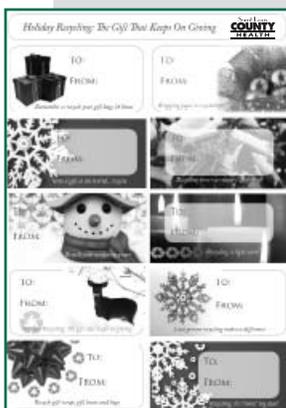


In 2003 (the baseline year), the countywide residential recycling rate was a little over 100 lbs. per household per year. In 2007, we started to see a dramatic increase (45%) primarily due to single-stream recycling in municipalities, along with an increased use of larger recycling carts. In 2008, all of unincorporated Saint Louis County received recycling carts as did several additional municipalities — and what a difference that made! We project that the increase will continue in 2009 as additional municipalities have received grants to provide recycling carts to their residents.

Though we can take pride in our progress, we are still finding a lot of recyclables in our landfills when we do our inspections. We also know that participation can still improve. With all the extra waste we create during the holidays, it seems a perfect time to encourage our friends and neighbors to recycle! The boxes, wrapping paper, cards, extra bottles and cans from entertaining — all can be recycled instead of put in a landfill. Even avid recyclers may occasionally need a reminder that a pumpkin pie pan, a paper eggnog carton, and a five-gallon bucket of peppermint ice cream can all be recycled!

Tossing items in the recycling bin instead of the trash can is easy! During these tough economic times, we just can't afford to bury resources that could be used as raw materials to make new products and create jobs. If you aren't already recycling, give a gift to future generations by starting. And if recycling is already a part of your routine, make sure you are recycling everything that can be recycled. 'Tis the season to recycle!

## FREE GIFT TAGS



**(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)**

Add an earth-friendly message to your holiday packages!

Free gift tags will be available at the following County events held in Memorial Park.

The park is located in the plaza next to 41 South Central in Clayton (63105).

### America Recycles Day

November 16, 2009  
11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

### Saint Louis County Tree Lighting

November 20, 2009  
5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

## District Trash Collection Service in Unincorporated Saint Louis County

Trash service in unincorporated Saint Louis County includes two free bulky trash pickups per year. Bulky trash is any household item too large to fit in your trash container.

Bulky waste does NOT include items banned from the landfill such as tires and appliances, or items such as automobile parts, construction or home remodeling debris, rocks, soil, landscape timbers (treated wood), railroad ties, lawnmowers, animal carcasses, garage door openers, or other such items.

Schedule bulky trash pickup at least 48 hours prior to your collection day. Contact your waste hauler for details.

**REMINDER:** Haulers sometimes operate on holiday schedules which may shift your collection by one day. Adverse weather may also shift your collection by a day.

Inside

## Special Holiday Recycling Issue

Happy  
America  
Recycles  
Day!

America Recycles Day  
is celebrated each year  
in November.

## WHAT TO RECYCLE

The following items can be put into  
your recycling cart for curbside pickup:

- Glass bottles and jars (even ones with lids and labels).
- Plastic containers with a #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, or #7 inside the recycling symbol on the bottom such as:
  - milk and juice jugs
  - laundry and dish soap bottles
  - butter and yogurt tubs
  - shampoo and lotion bottles.
- Aluminum and steel cans.
- Clean aluminum foil, trays, and pans.
- Paper products, including newspapers, magazines, junk mail, phone books, cardboard, and cereal boxes.

DO NOT PUT ANY TYPE OF PLASTIC BAG IN THE CART (plastic grocery bags can be recycled at most local grocery stores).

DO NOT PUT ANY PAPER TOWELS, TISSUES, OR PAPER WIPES IN THE CART (these are not permitted for sanitary reasons).

DO NOT PUT ANY STYROFOAM OR #6 PLASTICS IN THE CART (these cannot be recycled curbside).

Our hotline number has  
changed! For updates on  
events and recycling tips,  
please call:  
**(314) 615-8989.**



*This newsletter and programs described herein are made possible by the voter-approved 5% surcharge on waste disposed in Saint Louis County landfills. The Health Department uses these funds for the benefit of Saint Louis County residents. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.*

Sign up for the online version of this newsletter! E-mail us at: [waste.eletter.doh@stlouisco.com](mailto:waste.eletter.doh@stlouisco.com).  
Please provide your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.