

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.

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.

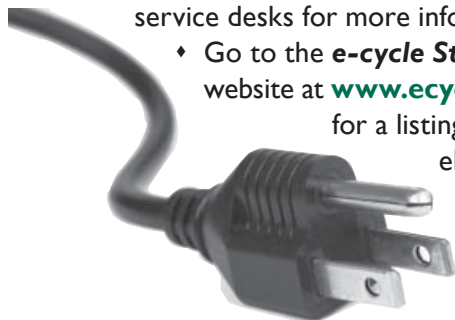
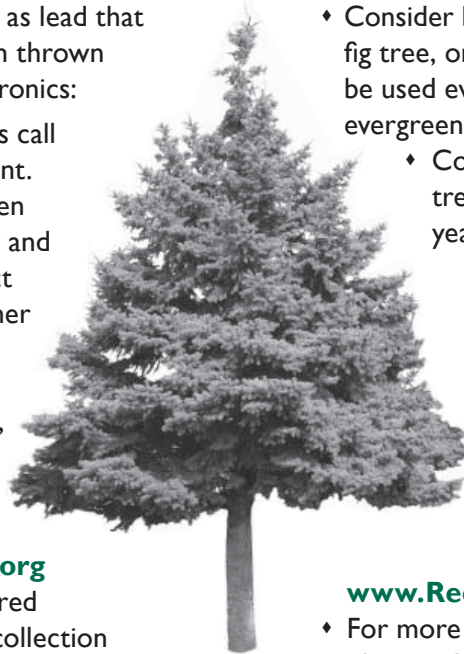
Pulling the Plug on Electronics:

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 and 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 for a listing of registered electronics collection locations.

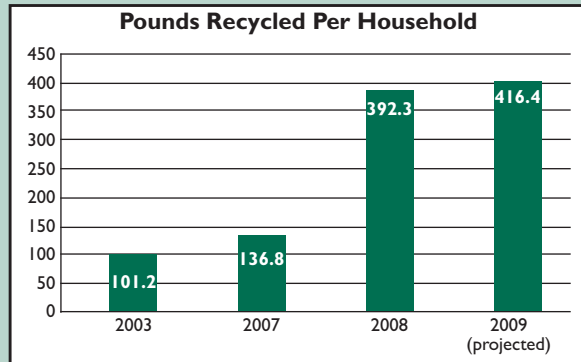
Christmas Trees:

- ♦ 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.
- ♦ For more environmentally-friendly ideas such as reusing live trees, visit the website of the Missouri Department of Conservation at www.mdc.mo.gov.



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%!

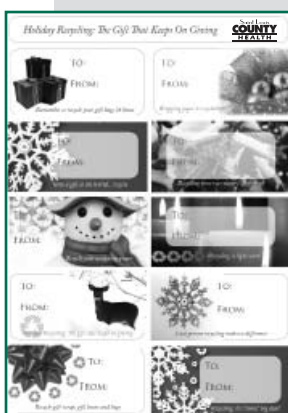


In 2003 (the baseline year), the countywide residential recycling rate was a little over 100 lbs. per household per year. In 2007, we started to see a dramatic increase (45%) primarily due to single-stream recycling in municipalities, along with an increased use of larger recycling carts. In 2008, all 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.