

The Greener Side of Winter ...

Winter 2009 Holiday Edition

Publication by the City of Muscatine, Solid Waste Division of Public Works



Happy Holidays!

It is the most wonderful time of the year and the most wasteful! Did you know that 1 million more tons of garbage is produced between Thanksgiving day until New Year's Day. That is a lot of waste that could be prevented from going into landfills.

This edition of The Greener Side is focused on winter and the holiday season of waste reduction and recycling.

Have a great "Green" holiday season!

The Staff of the Solid Waste Division of Public Works for the City of Muscatine



Holiday Hours and Services

The Muscatine Recycling Center and Transfer Station Holiday Hours for Christmas and New Year's is as follows:

Christmas: Thursday December 24, 2009—Closed
Friday December 25, 2009—Closed

New Year's: Friday January 1, 2010—Closed

Refuse Collection for the City of Muscatine and Fruitland:

Christmas Week:

Monday December 21, 2009—Monday Route
Tuesday December 22, 2009—Tuesday Route
Wednesday December 23, 2009—Wednesday and Thursday Routes
Thursday December 24, 2009—NO Collection
Friday December 25, 2009—NO Collection

New Year's Week:

Monday December 28, 2009 - Friday and Monday Routes
Tuesday December 29, 2009—Tuesday Routes
Wednesday December 30, 2009—Wednesday Routes
Thursday December 31, 2009—Thursday Routes
Friday January 1, 2010—NO Collection

Monday January 4, 2010—Friday and Monday Routes



Recycling for the Holidays

Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling can happen during the holiday season. City of Muscatine and Fruitland residents can recycle their gift boxes and other cardboard containers at the curb. Last year was the first year of the pilot program for cardboard collection for recycling. It was a success and now is a regular part of the refuse collection program.

Residents need to put out their cardboard next to their trash on their collection day. Please do not put out trash or packing materials in the cardboard. Smaller cardboard should be bundled or placed in a larger box. Residents can also use a separate garbage can or tote marked cardboard only on the side for recycling.

A separate refuse collection truck will drive by to pick up the cardboard. (Please note that a refuse truck is being used for cost savings and this material is being recycled. It will not be disposed of in the landfill.)

The below photos shows how to place cardboard at the curb and how not to.





Ways to Reduce Waste This Holiday Season

Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper or funny papers. Also remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper. Give gifts that don't require much packaging, such as concert tickets or gift certificates.

Send recycled-content greeting cards to reduce the amount of virgin paper used during the holidays. Remember to recycle any paper cards you receive. You can also try sending electronic greeting cards to reduce paper waste.

About 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run.

Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help your lights last longer.

Consider the durability of a product before you buy it as a gift. Cheaper, less durable items often wear out quickly, creating waste and costing you money.

When buying gifts, check product labels to determine an item's recyclability and whether it is made from recycled materials. Buying recycled encourages manufacturers to make more recycled-content products available.

Information provided by www.epa.gov

Recycling Mascot Entries



Thank— you to everyone who attended the America's Recycles Day event on Sunday November 15, 2009. Approximately 100 residents of all ages attended the event. We receive six entries for the recycling mascot. The Refuse Collection and Recycling Committee decided to put all the work together for a mural for our education

programs. The entries were submitted by the following:

Carly Bates, Cori Bates, Tanner Busch, Jeremy Lough, Sami Pratt, Lilly Poci, and Dylan Shafer

Thank— you for your entries and keep a look out for your art work!



Kids Corner Holiday Craft



Wondering what to do with the glass food jars you have around the house? You could recycle them at the Muscatine Recycling Center and Transfer Station. You could also make a stain glass looking candle holder. You will need the following supplies:

- Glass Jars (Any Size—smaller is better)
- Different Colored Tissue Paper (Cut in small pieces)
- School Glue (Use a small plastic container to put glue in and add a little water to make the glue less thick)
- Small Paint Brush.

Paint the glue on the jar and apply the cut up colored tissue paper on to the jar. Once covered, let the jar dry. A candle goes in the inside of the jar. To make the candle holder more festive, add some glitter to the glue.

The Great Christmas Tree Debate Real or Artificial

Is it better to buy a real Christmas tree or a artificial tree? According to a report on MSNBC. Com, real Christmas trees are grown on tree farms and are grown for the purpose of a Christmas tree. It is good for the environment, but it can be chipped up into wood mulch or used for fish habitat.

Artificial trees are made out of petroleum and cause harmful gases in the environment. Eventually artificial trees end up in landfills and add to green house gas issues.

City of Muscatine resident's can put their Christmas trees out for collection after Christmas where you normally put out refuse and cardboard for collection on your regular collection day. Trees will be picked up and taken to the Compost Site. All trees will be chipped with other trees and brush later in the spring for wood mulch.



Tress need to have no plastic bags around them, no ornaments, tinsel, lights, or other decorations. For more information, please call the Muscatine Recycling Center and Transfer Station at 263-9689.

Information provided by www.msnbc.com

Remember your old electronics can be recycled at the Muscatine Recycling Center and Transfer Station. For more information contact us at 263-9689