



RE-NEWS

A Publication of the City of St. Louis
Recycling Program



May, 2005

End of Year Reminder - Caring for Your Blue Bins

The City of St. Louis Refuse Division is happy to note that 46 public and private schools in the City have taken the initiative to recycle paper in their classrooms and offices.

The blue bins used for paper collection in each room are provided on loan from the Refuse Division. These bins were purchased with grant funding, and our supply is limited. There is no guarantee of grant funding to restock our inventory.

Here are some end-of-year tips on caring for your blue bins so that your recycling program can resume quickly in the fall:

- If you do not remember how many bins you received from the Refuse Division, check with us for a copy of your loan agreement, including the original placement of each bin.
- If you do not have a faculty or staff "sponsor" for the program, we encourage you to do so. Having someone to distribute information on blue bin maintenance and familiarize new faculty and staff with the program can be essential to keeping your program and bins from being abused or misplaced.
- Devise a school plan to avoid loss or misuse of bins over summer break. This may include collecting, counting and storing bins in a central location, or assigning bins to individual teachers and holding them responsible for the proper care and storage of their respective bins.
- Remind faculty and staff of this plan through mailings, announcements, or a combination of both.
- Blue bins are authorized to be used exclusively for paper collection. They are not to be used for the storage of books, arts and crafts supplies, or sports equipment, even during summer months. They are also not to be used as trash receptacles. Such activity also contributes to loss and damage of the bins. Please remember that the fee for a lost or damaged bin is \$5.00.

Note: The end of the school year often brings a significant increase in paper waste. Teachers and students will be cleaning out their files and notebooks, and you don't want to miss this opportunity to divert waste and increase your school's potential income from the recycling program. When possible, we encourage you to leave your bins out until the teachers have completed their end-of-year paperwork.

MEEA Educator Resources

The Missouri Environmental Education Association is "a grassroots organization of individuals, institutions, organizations and business/industry with a passion for educating people about the choices we make that affect natural and built environments, our economy, and our society."

MEEA provides educators with many resources, including award and grant opportunities, an email bulletin and newsletter, and information on obtaining Environmental Educator certification.

In addition, the MEEA website, <http://www.meea.org>, recently developed a database of environmental education organizations throughout Missouri. Educators can use this database to search for events and visiting education programs, or simply to network with various environmental organizations in their local region.

The City of St. Louis Refuse Division is a member of MEEA. The educational classes offered by the Recycling Program are listed on this database, as well as our website. We encourage all St. Louis educators to visit MEEA online, and find out about the many options for environmental education in the St. Louis area.

Printed on Recycled Paper!



Environmental Jeopardy: Free Board Game for your Classroom

In honor of Earth Day 2005, the Earth Day Network developed a "Environmental Jeopardy," a free resource for educators everywhere. Not only fun to play, this game is packed with educational substance.

Visit <http://www.earthday.net/involved/> to join the Earth Day Educator's Network, and receive your free copy of "Environmental Jeopardy". This board game, accompanied by a one-day lesson plan, is designed to "challenge the way students think about important issues such as recycling, energy, sustainability, transportation and pollution, which affect the lives of all Americans."

School Reminder

The City of St. Louis Recycling Program can assist you in implementing and institutionalizing recycling practices in your school.

Our goal is to have all schools recycling. About 70% of a school's waste is in the form of recyclable paper.

For every ton of paper your school recycles, your students will be saving 17 trees from destruction!

The Refuse Division supports the Career Awareness Fair

On May 10th and 11th, the City of St. Louis Refuse Division traveled to America's Center for the 2005 Career Awareness Fair. Over the course of the two days, representatives from the Refuse Division and its Recycling Program spoke to hundreds of 8th grade students about following a career in waste management and recycling.

This fair, an annual event organized by the Career Education Office of the St. Louis Public Schools, is designed to introduce students to the many career options available to them after school. They can then make informed choices as they pursue their secondary education.

Contact the City of St. Louis Refuse Division Recycling Program:

website: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/refuse>

e-mail: recycle@stlouis.missouri.org

phone: 353-7176 (direct dial)
or 353-8877 (switchboard)

Program Feature: LANDFILLS

The City of St. Louis Refuse Division offers visiting environmental education programs at no charge to all City public and private schools and youth groups.

Landfills are fascinating and mysterious places. Most St. Louis residents have never visited a landfill, but their daily waste travels there every week. In this program, Refuse Division Staff explain the environmental impacts of landfills, and actions we can take to keep our soil and groundwater cleaner.

In the second portion of the class, students have the opportunity to handle our large interactive landfill model. After adding "pollutants" to the landfill, they watch as rainwater carries these toxins through the ground and into the community's groundwater supply.

To learn more about our educational programs, or to schedule a visit to your classroom, please email us at recycle@stlouis.missouri.org, or call us at 353-7176.

Online Game

Visit the EPA's new site, <http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/gameintro.htm>, to play "Dumptown," a fascinating online game. As Dumptown's new City Manager, you find ways to turn the littered, polluted city into a clean, healthy place to live.

Do you know any educators, home-schoolers, or youth group leaders who would like to receive RE-NEWS from the City of St. Louis Recycling Program? Tell them to contact us at recycle@stlouis.missouri.org, or 353-7176, and we will add them to the e-mail list for this free publication.

Reader Submissions Welcome

The Recycling Program invites you to submit material for this monthly newsletter. Would you like to share your activities, lesson plans, "how to" tips, or something else related to waste management education? Please, e-mail us at recycle@stlouis.missouri.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

A note: We currently distribute RE-NEWS in electronic format, to conserve our natural resources and our budget.