

The Weekly Green

Committed to Going Greener Week by Week in Campus Life

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Eco-Friendly in the Office:

Scary Facts

- 1. Halloween has become the second biggest consumer event of the year, after Christmas. The American Retailers Association estimates that Americans will spend more than 6.5 billion this Halloween. That includes money spent on costumes, candy and decorations.
- 2. We use over 380 million plastic bags every year, which in turn consumes 12 million barrels of oil. With gas prices what they are, it makes a reusable bag look much more appealing.
- 3. Polyester and vinyl, the two most common Halloween fabrics of choice, are almost impossible to recycle. Manufacturing them causes the release of carcinogenic dioxin and transporting them is oil-intensive.
- In 2006, 17, 200 hectares (10,000 square meters) of pumpkins were harvested. The majority of those pumpkins ended up in the garbage November 1.

Office Costume Ideas

- A Leaf Blower: Tie a piece of string to a hat and attach a leaf to the other end. Place in front of your face and when others ask what you are, blow the leaf.
- Office Gossip: Write fun made-up stories on recycled scrap paper and post all over self.
- A Day Off: Write either Oct. 30 or Nov. 1 on an old shirt. When asked what you are, reply "a day off."
- Suggestion Box: Take one of the Corporate Express boxes and fasten it to your head or back. Ask for suggestions.

Courtesy of the Daily Green website, www.thedailygreen.com

"When you plant a tree, never plant only one. Plant three: one for shade, one for fruit, one for beauty.

- African Proverb

Weekly Tasks

- Even if you can't make Halloween green at home, try in the office. Make your costume from used or recycled products-be creative!
- If you haven't already done so, pick up a bag for groceries (or candy if you're headed out on Friday)

Eco-Friendly in the Home:

Halloween Savings

- Try a new bag. Use an old pillow case instead of a fancy Halloween bucket.
- Recycle a costume. Instead of buying something "really cool" for the office, look around the house to find accessories-be creative!
- Buy organic candy. These include Yummy Earth Iollipops and Fair Trade gold coins.
- Buy local. When shopping for pumpkins to carve or other fall treats, support your local farm stand.
- Decorate cheap. If decorating your home, use items you already have: toilet paper for cobwebs, old clothes for the



scarecrow, and garbage bags for ghosts.

- Non-traditional treats. Since individually wrapped candy creates a lot of waste, try handing out other items such as local apples, wooden pencils, or packets of seeds.
- Don't smash that pumpkin. Your carved masterpieces can be turned into this year's Thanksgiving pie or that soup you've been dying to try. The seeds are also quite tasty with some salt and butter; just mix, toast, and enjoy!

Courtesy of the Daily Green website, www.thedailygreen.com

Helpful Website of the Week

http://www.lowimpackliving.com

Very user friendly: check out the impact calculator

Eco-Certification Training

More dates coming soon!