



REGIONAL DISTRICT OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN PRESS RELEASE

October 16, 2009

Have a Green Halloween

This Halloween season, trick-or-treat with the earth in mind! Here are a few tips on how to have a fun, safe and green Halloween:

- Buy pumpkins and other seasonal fruits and veggies from local farmers markets or grow your own from seed.
- Instead of throwing your pumpkin in the trash, turn it into a yummy treat. Turn the flesh into a delicious pumpkin pie and roast the seeds for a light snack or bird feed.
- Compost. Mix dry leaves with your pumpkin in a backyard compost bin to make great compost for the spring.
- Decorate your home with LED holiday lights. LED holiday lights are energy efficient and do not give off heat like conventional holiday lights, reducing the fire hazard.
- Make your own Halloween decorations from materials that are easily recyclable or already lying around the house, such as construction paper, cardboard boxes, cotton balls or branches and leaves from the yard.
- Save your decorations and use them the following Halloween.
- Make your own costume using scrap material or buy one second hand.
- If you're really dedicated to spreading the recycling mantra, dress up in a 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' themed costume!
- Donate your old costume to a second hand store or pass it along to a friend or family member.
- Give out treats to trick-or-treaters that are served in recyclable packaging or in as little packaging as possible.
- Trick-or-treat close to home so you can ditch the car and walk. Not only will you save money on gasoline but it gives you a chance to mingle with fellow trick-or-treaters.
- Avoid plastic disposable bags and opt for cloth bags, like pillow cases, for holding treats.
- To avoid littering, take along an extra bag for your garbage and recycling.

For additional information, contact the Recycling Council of BC Hotline, Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm, and Saturdays 9am to 4pm at 1-800-667-4321 (province-wide). The RDOS Solid Waste Department can be contacted at 250-490-4129, toll free 1-877-610-3737 ext. 4129 or e-mail info@rdos.bc.ca.

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