

ST. LUCAS UCC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE INFO

REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE

Remember the first part is reduce—
don't buy it or all the extra packaging that comes with it if you can avoid it.
Then you can think about reusing and recycling.

What is going on with the blue bins in 2018?

- St Louis Earth Day has a great article: [Blue Bin Info](#)
- Here is a great St. Louis Post article from 2017 about the do's and don'ts of recycling: [How To Recycle](#)

What can you recycle at St. Lucas?

In the church: We have single stream recycling in the blue cans--read the recycling cans for help in choosing what to put in the recycling can, and what needs to go in the trash can. Help us reduce the amount we place in our trash dumpster. Please empty all soda cans before placing them in the blue cans.

In the church bathrooms: All unsoiled paper hand towels should be placed in the green compost containers.

Inside in the Social Hall Corner: Ink cartridges, cell phones, rechargeable/lithium batteries, plastic grocery bags, corks and eyeglasses.

In the bins outside: Paper and magazines. (No cardboard or plastic bags, please!)

In the Kitchen: Compostable items go in the GREEN Totes--if it came from the ground it can go in there--please see the posters for more details, or ask one of us. The tote is lined with a special compostable bag. Napkins, all compostable cups, plates and bowls, and any food goes in the green totes.

All money comes back to St. Lucas-what an easy way to contribute!

Clothing Donation Box

You may have noticed the yellow box that looks like a house on our parking lot. It is our clothing donation box. By donating clothes in this Charity Clothing box, you will accomplish three things:

1. St. Lucas will receive money, based on the weight of our clothes, that will go directly into the St. Lucas general fund. All donations are tax deductible. If you need a tax receipt, please call [314-416-8282](tel:314-416-8282) or email the request: <http://www.clothingpickupstl.com/contact-us.aspx>
2. You will keep your old clothing out of the landfill. Studies have shown that up to 85% of used textiles end up in landfills.

3. You will help provide jobs in our local area. Charity Clothing sells the items in bulk to thrift stores. These stores are all in the USA.

PLEASE NOTE: All items must be in kitchen size trash bags (13 gallon size). Offer to take donations from your friends and neighbors, as anything that goes into our box will yield money for St. Lucas!

Magazine Lending Library

The Environmental Committee has set up a Magazine Lending Library at the top of the stairs, near the elevator, on the Office level. Please feel free to take magazines to read and then return them for others to read. You may also bring magazines to share, provided they are less than 6 months old. Older magazines will be recycled in the bins outside. This lending library lives out the motto of recycling: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Even the rack is recycled--it was originally from Borders and we found it on Craig's List. The owner was more than happy to donate it for free when he found out what it would be used for.

Electronics Recycling

Have old computers, phones, or radios that you cannot wait to get out of your house? The City of Sunset Hills and W.I.T.S will be offering electronic recycling the 3rd Saturday of every month (February thru November only!) from 10:00am-4:00pm in the Community Center parking lot. Anything that has a cord can be taken to MRC Recycling near the South County Aldi store. There is a charge for some TVs and computer equipment.

<https://mrcrecycling.net/electronics-recycling-st-louis-mo>



Reusable St. Lucas grocery bags--Bring Your Own Bag

Get them in the office anytime, \$1.00 a piece. Go green and spread the word about St. Lucas all at the same time.

Ongoing Committee Project Goals

1. Continue to educate members and staff about the importance of using single stream recycling, trash and composting bins properly -- **ONGOING**
2. Continue to educate the church on having a greener outlook -- **ONGOING**
3. Continue with Energy Audit to look at ways to save the church money, specifically occupancy sensors and lighting changes -- **ONGOING**

4. Investigate becoming an Energy Star church.
5. Investigate and work towards replacing the kitchen dishwasher.

Goals Realized in 2014/15/16/17

1. Composting instituted in August of 2014 and use has continued to grow. Over 3500 pounds were composted in 2017!
2. Clothing Donation Box provided outside for members and community.
3. Magazine donation rack provided to recycle current magazines among members.
4. Occupancy sensors have been placed in the upstairs bathrooms and the Youth Room.
5. Helped facilitate a 3-week Sunday Adult Education series on green topics, fall '14.
6. Kitchen is now stocked with only washable or compostable items.
7. Compostable items are now used for church wide events like the Ice Cream Social and Living Nativity.

Gardening?

Have you been busy planting flowers? Please recycle those cell packs and pots responsibly and prevent them from entering landfills. For more info, please visit: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/sustainability/sustainability/earthways-center/news-from-the-earthways-center/articleid/330.aspx>

The St. Lucas Kitchen is GREEN!

We are styrofoam free! Everything in the kitchen is now washable or compostable. Please feel free to ask us for help if you are hosting an event and we will be glad to assist you. Please help us on Sunday mornings by placing your napkins, wooden stirrers and uneaten doughnuts in the bin provided on the dirty coffee cup cart--less trash and more compostables is always a good thing! Since we started composting in August of 2014, we have kept over 7000 pounds of food waste out of the landfill (148 lbs. in '14, 340 lbs in '15, 3750 lbs. in '16, 3545 lbs. in '17) which has been converted into compost that will be reused to add nutrients to somebody's garden.

How Can You Be Greener?

Commit to making lasting changes to go greener this year by adopting a few easy new habits:

- Trade paper towels for a stack of washable dish cloths
- Use real napkins instead of paper
- Swap out your cleaning products for natural methods
- Check out a local farmer's market for fresh produce
- Shut off lights when you leave the room
- Don't waste food--only buy what you need and use as much of it as you can
- Rid your house of Styrofoam

Meeting Information

We are always looking for more members.
Here is our meeting schedule for 2019...

The following Mondays @ 6:30PM in the Kruse Center:

August 19th
November 18th

Information you need to know

- Still have questions about what a CFL is? For more information: [Energy Star Lighting Info](#) St. Lucas has had new greener lighting in the Social Hall installed since 2011
- The Environmental Committee serves you Free Trade coffee and doughnuts every 3rd Sunday of the month in the Social Hall.
- Free trade coffee and other goodies are available for purchase the first Sunday of every month--shop and feel good about it! Be a part of the UCC Coffee Project. Buy what we serve every Sunday.

For more information: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project/>

Cleaning?

Feel the need to purge your closets, but you don't want to just throw the stuff away? Have you said "somebody should be able to use this?" Here is the answer to your problem--find a useful place for that stuff to go: <http://thestuffstop.com/>

Want more info?

Recycling/Composting/Reducing Links:

Composting:

[St. Louis Composting](#) (the company we use for food waste)

Trash/Recycling:

[What should I recycle?](#) Still unclear about what you can and can't recycle? Read this article to help you know the do's and don'ts.

[Are you confused about what plastics you can recycle and where they can be recycled?](#)

Watch the 10 minute video linked below to answer your questions. Remember NO plastic bags of any kind should ever be in your single stream recycling bin.

[Waste Management--Thinking Green Blog](#) (the church trash disposal company)

Why is Styrofoam awful?:

[Say No to Styrofoam](#) (information about why we shouldn't use it)