



Waste Reduction Week In Canada

Canada's 8th annual Waste Reduction Week (WRW) will take place this year from October 19th – 25th. Waste Reduction Week was developed and is run by a coalition of waste reduction and conservation organizations from across the country. The purpose of this week is to encourage everyone to do their part by reducing, reusing and recycling in every aspect of their lives – at home, school and work. The WRW Website states that "Waste Reduction Week in Canada, aims to inform and engage Canadians about the environmental and social ramifications of wasteful practices. The program's educational resources and "take action" messaging, empowers all Canadians to adopt more environmentally conscious choices." Waste Reduction Week provides tips, information and ideas to reduce waste in all areas of our daily lives. They also provide packages of activities and lessons for businesses, schools and municipalities. Check out their website for more information: www.wrwcanda.com and to see what you can do to help reduce your waste.

Halloween is Such a (Cause of) Waste

With the month of October always comes the excitement of Halloween. The Canadian traditions of costumes, the scary music and movies, the parties and of course – the candy! But do we ever consider the impact on the environment caused by celebrating Halloween? It only takes a second to realize that all those little packages of candy could add up to a lot of garbage! So what do we do if we don't want to be the dark house on the street with its lights off not giving out treats? Well, we can choose options with less packaging. Firstly, buy your items in bigger bulk containers to avoid extra 'outer' packaging. Then look for items that are only wrapped once, preferable in boxes or paper that could be recycled.

Do You Know Where it Goes?

Some materials make us think twice before we throw them away. Is it recyclable? Can it be composted? Or is it garbage?

Candy and Chocolate Bar Wrappers

Although the safety and convenience of the individually wrapped candies and chocolates are popular at Halloween all of these types of wrappers go into the garbage.

Mini Cardboard Boxes (like the small 'smarties' boxes)

These little boxes can be recycled. So, even though they are small make an effort to get them into your recycling box.

Plastic Candy Collection Containers and Plastic Halloween Masks

Even if these types of plastic have a recycle symbol on them, these items are not recyclable. They must go into your regular garbage. If you want to reduce your garbage instead of a mask, use face make-up. This option is also considered safer for your child as he or she will be able to see more clearly.

Re-Use It!

Re-use and get "retro" with your children's Halloween candy collection this year. Rather than buying a plastic container that will eventually end up in the garbage, why not re-use a pillow case? It worked great when we were kids!

Feeling crafty? If you are having a Halloween party, re-use paper egg cartons to be Halloween treat holders. Simply cut out the egg cartons into individual cups, paint them with Halloween colours and add eyes or other Halloween decorations for super cute party favours. Check out this website <http://crafts.kaboose.com/egg-cup-treat-holders.html> for full instructions.