



Zero Waste

Hallowe'en Tips

Hallowe'en is a favourite occasion for adults and kids alike. Add green to the black and orange colours of this spooky night by following some of these tips.

Tasteful treats!



- **Choose candy with wrappers that can be recycled or composted.** Many brands of taffy are wrapped in paper. There are also paper pouches full of gummy fruit snacks.
- **Hand out organic and/or fair trade goodies.** From lollipops to gummy bears, many companies specialize in making healthier alternatives to traditional candy.
- **Skip the candy aisle altogether.** Try stocking up on healthy treats: organic dried fruit, granola bars, and packaged popcorn.
- **GreenHalloween.org** offers a list of non-food ideas, like hair barrettes (which you could make yourself), seed packets, small toys made from recycled plastic, stickers, and soy crayons.
- **At a party, serve up snacks and nibbles made from local, seasonal food** like squash soup, smoked salmon, carrot cake, and apple cider.
- **Choose re-usable and secondhand bags for collecting treats.** A pillowcase or wicker basket or a cloth bag - it's what's inside that counts!



Getting Dressed...



- **Make your own costume** using items already in your house or that can be bought secondhand.
- **Choose organic, natural makeup and hair dye** for your transformation. Try some old-fashioned techniques, like a handful of baby powder in your hair for a junior Albert Einstein.
- **Host a costume swap** with your neighbors and friends. You may even come up with new ideas for a show-stopping outfit.
- **Donate your costume after the party.** Do you know of a program in your community that could use your costume? There's probably a school, local theater troupe, shelter or center that just might love those fairy wings and fireman hat.



Decoration Inspiration

- **Grow your own pumpkins or buy from a local farm.** This will reduce pumpkin-shipment emissions.
- **Compost your old pumpkins** when you are done. Instead of throwing away the "guts" of the pumpkin you scooped out,



toast the seeds for a snack or even make oil out of them. They also make a great addition to your compost pile.

- **Use soy or beeswax candles.** Paraffin in wax candles releases toxic chemicals (sorry - they may be cheap but they are nasty).
- **Buy quality, reusable decorations.** When possible, look for reclaimed material; if you're buying things you know you can't keep--like streamers or paper plates--be sure to look for brands that are both recycled and recyclable.
- **Use locally grown and native plants.** If spiders and skeletons aren't your thing, you can draw inspiration from the harvest bounty; think pumpkins, gourds, straw bales, and corn husks. Compost or eat your decorations after the party.
- **LED the way.** Consider using LED lights or solar-powered lamps to light the path to your front door for those trick-or-treaters.
- **Be a "craftster" for Halloween.** Kids and adults will have a great time creating Halloween crafts, like a recycled light bulb witch or egg carton pumpkins - see the listed websites for instructions.
- **Sweep the sidewalk.** If you're expecting trick-or-treaters, it's probably a smart idea to clear away the fall leaves. Instead of using a hose, save countless gallons of water by sweeping them with a broom. And remember, those leaves can be added to your compost pile.



Website support:

<http://www.allfreecrafts.com/halloween/lightbulb-witch.shtml>

<http://www.allfreecrafts.com/halloween/egg-carton-pumpkins.shtml>

<http://www.treehugger.com/files/2007/02/how-to-go-green-halloween.php>

<http://planetgreen.discovery.com/food-health/eco-friendly-halloween.html>

<http://earth911.com/news/2010/10/26/10-sweet-tips-for-an-eco-friendly-halloween/>

<http://earth911.com/news/2010/10/18/diy-pop-culture-halloween-costumes/>

<http://www.greenhalloween.org>

For general questions on recycling and composting, contact the Recycling Council of BC at www.rcbc.bc.ca or 1-800-667-4321



This fact sheet brought to you by the RDKS Solid Waste Management Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee (PMAC).

Visit our website to learn more about Zero Waste projects in your community at www.rdks.bc.ca or call the office at 1-800-663-3208 or 250-615-6100 in Terrace.

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