



# Missouri State Recycling Program

Office of Administration | General Services | 573-751-3384

## March 2019

### DNR Transforms Office Food Waste to Compost

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) steadily works towards their vision of balancing a healthy environment with a healthy economy to help Missouri citizens thrive. Not only is their Lewis and Clark State Office Building a masterpiece of sustainable design and construction designed to minimize the environmental impact, but their employees maintain a building-wide composting program.



Nine dedicated members, led by coordinator Stacia Bax, are involved in efforts to reduce food waste while creating a useable product that simultaneously helps increase building awareness of the Department's mission. Each volunteer signs up for a rotating two-week shift to empty compost buckets located in break areas on each of the four floors. The food scraps are deposited into compost bins made of recycled pallets located in the woods behind the building.

Approximately 200 buckets are composted annually, estimated to produce 4,000 pounds of compost. Helpful signs reminding people what can be composted are posted above the bins on each floor, along with the schedule noting the volunteer responsible for collection. The bins are rinsed after being emptied to prevent any unpleasant smells or insect activity.



Stacia Bax, volunteer coordinator of the DNR composting program.

In fiscal year 2018, statewide DNR operations composted more than 351,000 pounds of food waste and yard waste (leaves & tree limbs).

Food waste is one-fifth of the waste stream in the US, so being able to redirect food waste produced by a large state office building from a landfill while simultaneously producing a useable product for gardening is a worthwhile endeavor. Keep up the good work DNR!

### Upcycling in the Spotlight



These Bottle 2 Pens are made from 86% post-consumer recycled plastic bottles, and they're refillable! These pens (and refills) can be purchased through the state's office supplies contract.

## Missouri State Recycling Program



### Mission Statement

**The Missouri State Recycling Program partners with state employees and agencies to facilitate fiscally and environmentally responsible strategies for reuse and recycling of state property.**

# Recycling 101

## How do I recycle cardboard?

Cardboard. It's everywhere. How should I recycle?

- Cardboard that is stained with grease for food needs to be landfilled (thrown away)
- Be sure other packaging (e.g., plastic wrap, foam packaging and peanuts, etc.) have been removed from box and are disposed of separately.
- Always flatten cardboard before placing it in the recycle bin.

## Zero Waste Challenge

The Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) is coordinating a Zero Waste Challenge for this year's Earth Day event on April 26, and we need your help! All waste (trash and recyclables) will be weighed. We are challenging this year's participants to reduce the amount of waste compared to last year. One of the long-term goals of the Zero Waste Challenge is to encourage Earth day participants to strive for zero waste.

Earth Day participants are encouraged to:

- Keep recyclables as clean as possible to minimize contamination
- "Pre-cycle" by only purchasing #1 and #2-type plastic bottles and containers
- Recycle cardboard, aluminum cans, steel cans, and #1 and #2 plastics
- Consider ways to reduce the amount of food and packaging thrown away

In 2018, 44.2% of waste was recycled – help us top those numbers in 2019! Per capita waste (trash + material recycled) for 2018 Earth Day was .20 pounds per person.

Please send any submissions to [recycling@oa.mo.gov](mailto:recycling@oa.mo.gov). We'd love to see photos of you recycling at work, objects made from recycled products, or anything else recycling-related that you'd like to share!

## Meet Your MIRC Members!



The Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee (MIRC) is composed of representatives from each of the state departments, and meets quarterly to discuss issues dealing with recycling collection, waste reduction, recycling market conditions, and recycled product procurement. MIRC functions as the liaison between the Missouri State Recycling Program and all other state of Missouri government agencies.

March's featured MIRC member is Nancy Tennison, a 28-year veteran of the State Treasurer's office who has been an active member of MIRC since 1993. She works in the Harry S Truman Building, where office paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, tin cans, printer cartridges, rechargeable batteries, metal items, and computer equipment are recycled.

Nancy is proud to participate with her fellow state employees to practice sustainable recycling habits at work. The efforts of dedicated state employees, like Nancy, lead to the annual donation of \$30,000 from MSRP to the Heating Assistance Program, which helps low-income Missourians pay their energy bills.

Outside of her work as the Administrative Services Coordinator, Nancy is a member of the First Baptist Church of Eldon, where she serves as church clerk as well as preparing and serving meals as part of the hostess committee. A proud mother of two daughters (Sarah and Anna) and two grandchildren (Lydia and Eli), she also enjoys traveling and visiting friends and family from coast to coast. Nancy enjoys Rock the Park, a TV show featuring childhood friends that travel to all the national parks, which is a goal she is also working to achieve.

## Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose!

Empty kitty litter containers make a great sealable compost bin – thanks for the great idea DNR! See article on previous page to learn about their building composting project.

Submit a photo of an item being reused or repurposed to be featured in the next issue!

