

November 2009 E-Newsletter

Johnson County's Eco-Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of our Eco-Newsletter! This is a monthly publication that will keep you informed on environmental issues in our community. Please enjoy!

Yard Waste Restrictions on the Horizon



Landfill space in our region is diminishing rapidly and that is cause for dramatically increasing waste diversion efforts. Yard waste comprises 11% of the material Johnson Countians discard in the trash and it can easily be diverted and composted instead. Compost is a reusable valuable resource.

The Solid Waste Management Plan for Johnson County strongly recommends that the county restrict yard waste from disposal at the landfill. “Composting yard waste will contribute to extending the life of the landfill,” said Cindy Kemper, Director of the Johnson County Environmental Department, “and it is a more responsible way to manage our resources.”

Once yard waste is restricted from disposal, residents can continue to have it collected curbside. However, it will have to be separated from the trash and put in paper bags or bundled for pickup and composting (or other method approved by your hauler). New charges may ensue for this new service. Several cities and neighborhood communities in the county already separate their yard waste for curbside collection and composting, and many haulers offer this service.

An excellent way to reduce yard waste is by mulching grass and leaves back into lawns with a mulching mower. This returns up to 25% of the nitrogen needed to your soil and helps retain moisture. Residents can also start back yard composting to reduce waste. Finished compost is useful on gardens, flower beds and lawns, providing excellent soil enrichment and recycling nutrients.

[See the K-State Research and Extension Council's publication on composting.](#)



glass recycling is coming to Kansas City - fall 2009

New Glass Recycling Collection and Processing this Winter

Beginning this month, Johnson County residents will have a convenient way to recycle glass. Ripple Glass, a new local recycling company, will launch a glass recycling program with 50 collection bins around the metro area to collect used glass containers; 10 of which will be in Johnson County.

The company is presently constructing a state-of-the-art processing facility, where those containers will be converted into pure, ready-to-use recycled glass. Local companies like Owens Corning can then reuse it to make environmentally friendly products, including PINK FiberglasTM insulation, saving enormous amounts of energy and raw materials. It's a great way to keep perfectly good glass out of our landfills, conserve natural resources, support local businesses, and even help make homes more energy efficient.

For more information, visit their website, www.rippleglasskc.com.