



## **Go Green Galloway**

### *Green Tip of the Week:*

When we think of Halloween, orange is the color that comes to mind; however, even Halloween can be green. It is estimated Americans will spend over 3 billion dollars on Halloween candy, costumes and decorations this year. So isn't it time to save some money AND be more environmentally friendly?

**Costumes:** Be creative! Make them yourself out of your own old clothes or finds from the thrift store. Another idea is to host a costume exchange so that your child can wear a gently used costume from a friend or neighbor. After the holiday, you can recycle the costumes the same way that you got them: back to the thrift shop or through a second exchange.

**Treats:** Treats can be healthy without being boring. Look for Fair Trade or organic chocolates, natural lollipops or bags of organic popping corn. Treats can also be in the form of boxes of crayons, seed packets or cool pencils and erasers.

**Bags:** Canvas bags can be decorated by your children and be put away to be reused year after year.

**Decorations:** Visit your local farm or farm market to pick out pumpkins, gourds and apples that will make wonderful displays. Pumpkin pies, breads, etc. can be made from the puree and the seeds can be roasted. After the holiday is over, compost whatever is left. Candles make great decorations and are perfect to create a spooky atmosphere. LED lights are now available in strings of spiders, pumpkins, etc. and are extremely energy efficient. Also, solar lights use no electricity and you can get them as jack-o-lanterns, gargoyles and goblins.

This tip is courtesy of the Task Force for a Sustainable Galloway.

For more information, call the Galloway Township Department of Community Education at 652-3700 ext. 209 or email [mlynch@gtnj.org](mailto:mlynch@gtnj.org)

## Go Green Galloway

### Green tip of the week:

Fall is a great time to work on your yard and garden. Here are a few things to consider as the weather turns cooler:

- **Fertilize organically-** When preparing your soil for next year add organic slow release fertilizers that will boost your soil over time. Organic fertilizers contain natural ingredients and contain necessary nutrients to help your plants grow. Local garden stores and online catalog companies sell organic products.
- **Plant trees-** Fall is the ideal time to plant trees, bushes and flowers. Cooler temperatures and greater amounts of rainfall give plants a better chance of surviving than during the hotter summer months. Choose plants native to the area. This will increase the chance of their survival as well as benefit the wildlife in the area.
- **Let leaves stay where they fall-** Many people feel they need to clean out leaves from flower beds in the fall. Consider keeping them in place until the spring. The leaves will naturally decompose over the cooler months adding richness to the soil and suppress weeds from emerging in spring. Also, many wildlife species live in or rely on the leaf layer to find food. Many beneficial insects, such as butterflies and moths, overwinter as pupae in the leaf litter. These insects are critically important source for birds in the spring when they are feeding their babies.

## Go Green Galloway

### Green tip of the week:

Now that most children and parents have settled into the school routine, here are a few tips to encourage sustainable habits and support a healthy environment:

- **The Basics-** Remind kids to turn off lights when leaving an unoccupied room at home or in school. Encourage them to throw away trash they find on the playground, tell them to use both sides of paper when completing assignments.
- **Lunch-** Pack kids' lunches in lunch boxes or insulated bags instead of single use throw away paper bags. Consider reusing plastic bags or use reusable plastic containers for sandwiches and snacks. Be sure containers are safe and free of PVCs.
- **Keep children in touch with nature-** How children use their after school time has changed drastically due to the digital age. Children are less connected to nature, which can cause them to care less about its condition. Instead of watching TV or using the computer after school encourage them to go outside for an hour or two each day. If shorter days, with less daylight, is a problem, devote your weekends to outdoor activities only like biking and hiking. Studies have shown children who spend more time outside are less likely to suffer from obesity, Attention Deficit Disorder, and depression.
- **Use provided school busing/Carpool:** Most districts provide busing for students to and from school. By having your child take the bus to school you are avoiding using your own car for transportation, saving gas and time. If you live where bus service is not provided, start a carpool or take turns with other parents in the neighborhood to drop off and pick up the kids.

## Go Green Galloway

### Green tip of the week:

The fall season brings about many changes around us. The leaves start changing colors and pretty soon homeowners begin raking leaves, clearing gardens, and cleaning yard debris. These tasks can come along with some noise and pollution. Here are some tips to you can try to maintain a quieter and cleaner yard:

- **Collecting leaves:** Raking is very effective and cheaper than using a leaf blower. It even burns extra calories! If you do need a leaf blower to get to some hard to reach areas choose one that is electric, instead of gas. Electric leaf blowers are usually quieter and more energy efficient than gas powered ones.
- **Trimming branches/bushes:** Manual tools are always best for trimming vegetation. However, if you do need to use power equipment, choose electric ones.
- **Mowing the lawn:** Many yards are small enough to use a manual hand powered lawn mower. They are much quieter. If you have a larger yard use an electric lawn mower which make less noise and is easier on the environment.
- **Compost yard waste:** Rather than bagging up leaves, branches, grass clippings, and other yard waste into plastic bags, only to be thrown in the trash, consider composting. Composting turns yard waste into nutrient rich soil which can be ready to add to your garden in the spring. By adding some kitchen waste, such as vegetables, fruit peels or coffee grinds will make your compost pile even richer. The only thing you would want to avoid adding to the compost is weeds.



## **Go Green Galloway**

### *Green Tip of the Week:*

When we think of Halloween, orange is the color that comes to mind; however, even Halloween can be green. It is estimated Americans will spend over 3 billion dollars on Halloween candy, costumes and decorations this year. So isn't it time to save some money AND be more environmentally friendly?

**Costumes:** Be creative! Make them yourself out of your own old clothes or finds from the thrift store. Another idea is to host a costume exchange so that your child can wear a gently used costume from a friend or neighbor. After the holiday, you can recycle the costumes the same way that you got them: back to the thrift shop or through a second exchange.

**Treats:** Treats can be healthy without being boring. Look for Fair Trade or organic chocolates, natural lollipops or bags of organic popping corn. Treats can also be in the form of boxes of crayons, seed packets or cool pencils and erasers, even gently used books.

**Bags:** Canvas bags can be decorated by your children and be put away to be reused year after year.

**Decorations:** Visit your local farm or farm market to pick out pumpkins, gourds and apples that will make wonderful displays. Pumpkin pies, breads, etc. can be made from the puree and the seeds can be roasted. After the holiday is over, compost whatever is left. Candles make great decorations and are perfect to create a spooky atmosphere. LED lights are now available in strings of spiders, pumpkins, etc. and are extremely energy efficient. Also, solar lights use no electricity and you can get them as jack-o-lanterns, gargoyles and goblins.

This tip is courtesy of the Task Force for a Sustainable Galloway.

For more information, call the Galloway Township Department of Community Education at 652-3700 ext. 209 or email [mlynch@gtnj.org](mailto:mlynch@gtnj.org)



## **Go Green Galloway**

### *Green Tip of the Week:*

It's not too late to start a compost pile...in fact, with all the fall leaves that you no doubt have covering your lawn, it may be the ideal time to think about composting.

Composting is the natural decomposition process during which organic materials break down and create a nutrient-rich soil amendment called humus. Composting is nature's way of recycling.

Home composting allows you to manage your yard waste on your own property. It is also an effective way to cut down on the amount of trash that you put at the curb by removing kitchen scraps from the trash.

You can combine your leaves and woody materials, which are considered brown, carbon material with wet, green nitrogen materials such as vegetable and fruit scraps and grass clippings in a pile or in a bin that is specially made for composting. Your bin/pile should be placed directly on the ground to invite the microorganisms that do the decomposition work for your pile. Layer the brown and green materials, aerate or turn the material periodically, add water during dry spells, and you will have finished humus in one to six months; depending on the time of year and the type of pile that you have. (Bins work faster than open piles.)

You can purchase ready made bins (the Galloway Township Department of Community Education has some bins available to Galloway residents to purchase) or you can make one yourself. Please contact the number below for easy-to-follow plans.

This tip is courtesy of the Task Force for a Sustainable Galloway.

For more information, call the Galloway Township Department of Community Education at 652-3700 ext. 209 or email [mlynch@gtnj.org](mailto:mlynch@gtnj.org)