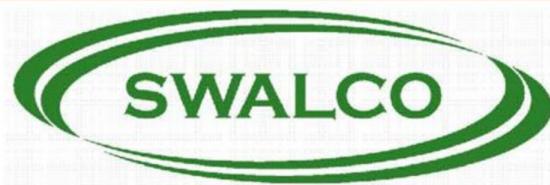


## More Green Halloween Tips & ideas

- Trick or treat locally – **bike or walk** if you can, while being safe.
- **Reuse and repurpose pumpkins for Thanksgiving décor.** Make a pumpkin turkey or use in natural displays for tabletops and other areas. Check this out for a great [DIY pumpkin turkey with template!](#)
- **Save the seeds** for eating or planting!
- **Compost your old pumpkins.** Don't have a compost bin at home? Find out if SWALCO has compost bins and rain barrels in stock or find out when their next compost bin and rain barrel sale is happening. We also provide resources on how and what you can compost at home. The [Compost Bin, Rain Barrel and Native Plant sale](#) takes place, typically, each year on Mother's Day weekend at Independence Grove, with the Lake County Forest Preserves. Check out a local Pumpkin Smash event in your community. Visit [Swalco's Pumpkin Composting pages](#) for a list of events in Lake County or just smash it in your backyard/garden and see what comes up next year! Find out if your municipality offers **curbside composting** and participate.
- **Plant potted mums in your garden and watch them come up next fall!** Don't forget, if you have plants that come in plastic garden pots, you can put those empty plastic pots in the recycling bin or reuse them for starting seeds or for new plants. Find out what other products you can recycle... Check out the recycling [guidelines for our Lake County community](#) on the SWALCO website. The Guidelines are available in English and in Spanish. You can also sign up for our E-news and be sure to like us on Facebook!
- For **holiday party snacks or treats** to hand out to trick-or-treaters that come to your doorstep, serve or hand out items like: boxes of organic raisins, juice, snack packs of applesauce, real fruit strips or rolls, fair-trade organic chocolate, etc. Endangered Species has Halloween treats. Another favorite find: Trader Joe's organic lollipops which come in fabulous flavors like raspberry, watermelon, pomegranate and orange. They don't have artificial colors/dyes, are flavored with natural flavors, are gluten free, allergen free, certified organic and reasonable in price to boot. Try the recipe for roasted pumpkin seeds on page 3. Or, hand out planet-friendly non-food items like soy crayons, or seed packets. **Consider reducing/eliminating plastic from all of your Halloween celebrations and activities this year.**
- Schools, Scout Troops, Libraries and other groups can check out a **crayon recycling kit** from SWALCO and make new crayons in the shape of pumpkins, leaves and other seasonal shapes.
- Consider gathering your family or group of friends for some **spooky/Halloween-themed Geo-caching.** **And find out how you can [turn your recyclables into a geocache.](#)**
- **Plan green activities throughout the month of October and don't forget to have fun, be safe and have an "eek-o-friendly" holiday!**



# Greening Your Halloween

## October 2022

An important part of SWALCO's mission is to help educate the community about the Rs and to share information and ideas that will help support them.

We encourage our municipalities, local organizations, community groups, businesses and others

to share or reproduce for residents, employees, patrons and members, by including in your newsletters, e-News, websites, and via Social Media. Please share this booklet in its entirety as there is a bounty of helpful information!

So today, with Halloween just around the corner, here are some fun ways for us to turn

Halloween a little greener this year. There are loads of ways to celebrate the holiday in a more sustainable and Eek-O-Friendly fashion.

We hope you will be able to try some of these inventive and green ideas/ways to celebrate.

Enjoy the season.

*Happy Halloween!*

Happy Halloween

Tips, Tricks, Resources & Recipes, to help you celebrate a ghoulishly Green Halloween!!

Take A Look Inside For Loads of Eek-O-Friendly Ideas!



This publication was written by Merleanne Rampale, from SWALCO. To contact her or to learn more about sustainability, Green Living, or more about SWALCO's programs and services, visit [swalco.org](#), email [mrampale@swalco.org](mailto:mrampale@swalco.org);

Or, you can call her, or any of the SWALCO staff at 847-377-4950 to learn more about the resources in your community.



## Greening Your Halloween



1. Think about ways to **Reduce** waste this Halloween.
2. Use found objects, or items you can **Reuse** and swap, for your costumes, decorations and trick-or-treat “bags”.
3. **Recycle and Compost** at your parties and events. Check out the curbside Recycling Guidelines for Lake County.
4. Whenever possible **Buy eco-friendly** (recycled content, sustainable, local & fair trade) treats and products.



## Costumes

- **Skip the purchased plastic and create costumes from things found at home or purchase from a thrift store.** You might find a variety of costumes and decorations on sites like Freecycle.org or SWAP.com. Check them out. Use items like sheets, boxes, old/unwanted clothing or shoes, and a variety of unwanted and found items around the house. Have a recycled costume parade! If you have unwanted footwear/ shoes, bring them to one of [SWALCO's Reuse-A-Shoe](#) drop-off collections, or sign your group up to collect shoes, learn more about recycling and reuse participate in contest, win prizes and have fun!
- **Host a costume swap at your school, at work or in your Neighborhood.** Contact SWALCO if you'd like help in organizing your swap. Or, take unwanted or outgrown costumes to one of [SWALCO's Clothing and Textile Recycling drop-off sites](#). Learn more about this important program as clothing is now the fastest growing waste in the US waste stream today.



- **Use non-toxic, organic cosmetics.** If you have unwanted/expired cosmetics or personal care products, bring those to one of [SWALCO's HCW \(household chemical waste\) collections](#). And find out what other items you can bring.
- **Use items like reusable totes, pillowcases, or other reusable bags to collect candy and other Halloween treats and goodies.** Decorate them with non-toxic

## Parties, Decorating-tips, & More Ideas on back!



- **Reuse Halloween decorations and costumes** as you can, from year to year. Or, if you're tired of the same-old, same-old, purchase “new to you” items from a thrift store.
- **Host a Halloween decorations swap (indoor and outdoor décor) or party** in your neighborhood or community. You can have a lot of fun with this. Or, consider hosting a holiday decor creating party — don't forget decorating with materials found in nature by collecting pinecones, leaves & other items outdoors.
- **Make a Halloween Scarecrow, using materials you have at home or in the recycling bin.** You can also create a really cool [“Mr. Bones” skeleton decoration with recycled milk jugs](#).
- **Throw a Green Halloween Party.** Use natural beeswax candles to light your pumpkins and spooky areas or try one of the newer LED lights and use rechargeable batteries. Don't forget the reusable silverware, plates/glasses & napkins.
- **Serve sustainable treats .**
- **Visit craft sites like [allfreecrafts.com](#), and others for recycled Halloween crafts** like egg carton spiders and bats, steel can luminaries and recycled milk carton pumpkins. **Make eco crafts:** [recycled wreaths from paper bags](#) or other materials. There are great folding and other crafts for leftover candy wrappers too. Or, pumpkins from old sweaters, canning jar lids and more!
- **Don't let that pumpkin go to waste! Serve roasted pumpkin seeds:** Combine 1 and 1/2 cups raw whole pumpkin seeds, 2 teaspoons melted butter or olive/vegetable oil, and 1 pinch salt. Spread seeds out on cookie sheet and bake at 300 for 45 minutes until golden brown. Add your favorite seasonings like garlic powder or nutmeg and cinnamon, or try grated hard cheeses like parmesan. Make them savory or sweet, if you dare! *Don't leave salted or sugared pumpkin seeds for the animals.*
- Before your party, **clean with green cleaning products you purchase or make yourself, and fill your home with healthy Fall scents.** Natural simmer pot recipes: **Fall Fave:** 1 sliced orange, 5 cinnamon sticks, 2 tablespoons of whole cloves., or **I Can Smell it Already:** Handfuls of fresh Cranberries, 1 Sliced Orange, 3 Cinnamon Sticks and 5 Star Anise.
- **Apples to Apples: Favorite Fall Beverage:** Place cloves, cinnamon sticks, allspice or other favorite scented spices into a pot of water. Simmer for 1-2 hours. Use apple cider or apple juice in place of water, add citrus fruit slices and you've got a wonderful and warm beverage! **Purchase apples from a local orchard** and have party-goers take part in a traditional bobbing for apples game.
- **LED lights are a great option** in addition to/instead of beeswax or soy candles. They last as much as 133 times longer than incandescent bulbs and cost about 80% less to use. They're also safer around children than candles or regular bulbs. Residents can bring household fluorescents/CFL light bulbs to a SWALCO HCW collection event.

