



newsletter

December 2009
Issue 9

Is that coffee cup recyclable?

Why throwing it in the trash could be a good thing.

This question is best answered by a story...

One day the Children's Center asked the Environmental Center if there were easy-disposable eco-friendly drinking cups available for their kids. They had been using recyclable cups, but it was difficult to manage for they often had to fish the cups out of the trash in order to dispose of them properly.

Though a good effort, this was neither sanitary nor easy to keep up with. The Environmental Center looked into a couple of options for the Children's Center and presented the ideas of either using reusable cups or biodegradable cups. Reusable cups would not be feasible for the Children's Center, so we asked about ordering biodegradable cups. The nice thing about biodegradable cups is that they are non-toxic and meant to decompose quickly in the landfill, and are often made out of cornstarch or rice and 100% recycled paper. In fact you don't even want to recycle these cups because the special biodegradable lining would contaminate recyclables. After the request of ordering biodegradable cups was made the person in charge of ordering the cups for the Children's Center informed us that they have been ordering these cups for the last couple of seasons and the Children's Center had been using them. Whoops!

The moral of this story is to check your drink cup before disposing of it. Is the cup biodegradable or recyclable? Proper biodegradable cups will say so on them and recyclable cups will have the recycle symbol (and corresponding number if they are plastic).

Sustainable Holiday Drinks! Happy Holidays!

Cool Cocktails – courtesy of Self Magazine (December Issue)

Stock up on sustainable sips and tips to make any party more eco-friendly

Responsible red: The Copper Mountain Vineyard composts grape skins and stems to nourish the soil naturally. Its Pinot Noir (\$25; CopperMountainWine.com) benefits your body, too: Organic reds have more antioxidants than conventional ones do. Post-party, send stoppers to TerraCycle (TerraCycle.net) to turn them into corkboards.



A Better Brew: Fight global warming with a cold one! The Sierra Nevada Pale Ale (\$8 for six) brewery converts oil from its on-site restaurant into biodiesel for its trucks. Stash beer in a cooler to keep the fridge from losing it chill every time you open it.

Earthwise White: Wind and solar energy power the Parducci Wine Cellars. Please your palate with its Sustainable White (\$11; Parducci.com) in enviro-chic cups, such as stemless glasses made from recycled car windows (\$22 for two; UncommonGoods.com).

Green Spirits: The maker of TRU Straight Vodka (\$35; TRUVodka.com) plants a tree for every bottle sold. Mix with juice from fresh, in-season grapefruit and garnish with a swirl of honey.

Please act responsibly and safe this holiday!

Helpful Hints – For Preparing Co-Mingle Recyclables

1. No need to remove staples from paper. Magnets remove staples during recycling process.
2. Rinse out food containers. Food causes contamination and can cause unsanitary conditions and odors.
3. No need to remove labels from cans and bottles. Labels are removed during the recycling process.
4. Remove tape from cardboard boxes. Tape cannot be recycled and causes contamination.
5. Break down boxes. Saves space.
6. Place Recyclables in bags & do not tie bags. This reduces litter when recycle bins are picked up and allows the pick-up trucks to compact materials tighter.
7. No plastic toys / Pet Food Bags / Motor Oil Bottles / Paint Cans / Plastic Tarps / Garden Hoses
8. No Styrofoam / Bubble Wrap / Packing Peanuts
9. No Napkins / Paper Towels / Tissues
10. No Soiled--Aluminum Foil / Paper Plates / Cups / Pizza Boxes / Napkins / Paper Towels / Tissue
11. No Food Stained Materials or Food & Liquid Waste

