

## Green your Halloween

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MADISON – Halloween revelers don't have to dress up as the Hulk or the Green Lantern in order to green their holiday experience. As with many holiday events, Halloween can end up generating unwelcome trash, but there are ways people can reduce this unnecessary waste and "green their Halloween." Here are some tips from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recycling, reuse and composting program:

- **Tip 1: Trick or Treat with a Reusable Bag:** When your family goes trick-or-treating this Halloween, carry reusable bags or containers that don't need to be thrown out after use. Cloth or canvas bags, or even pillowcases, are terrific eco-friendly choices to paper or plastic bags, or molded plastic jack-o-lanterns.
- **Tip 2: D-I-Y or Thrift Your Costume:** Instead of buying a Halloween costume that you or your children will wear once and throw away, make your own costumes from old clothes and other items you already have around the house. You can also find inexpensive, eco-friendly costumes and supplies from thrift stores or yard sales. Some parents organize costume trades, where kids choose from available, reused costumes. Once your kids are done with this year's disguise, pass the favor on and donate their old costumes for someone else to enjoy.
- **Tip 3: Compost:** If you don't already compost, Halloween is a great time to start. You can add post-Halloween jack-o-lanterns to your compost bin, along with fallen leaves, food scraps, and other organic, biodegradable yard and household waste. See the [home composting](#) page of the DNR website or new [composting poster \(pdf\)](#) for more tips on how to begin composting.
- **Tip 4: Walk, Don't Drive:** Stick close to home this Halloween and walk from house to house instead of driving to reduce your fuel use and air pollution.
- **Tip 5: Keep Halloween Clean:** Teach your children to keep candy wrappers in their bags until they return home, or to dispose of them in trash cans along their route. Preventing candy wrappers from becoming Halloween litter on the street is the right way to treat the environment.

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