



Keeping you informed about stormwater issues and Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium activities

DIY RAIN BARRELS!



I'd rather do it myself! That's why DIYers flock to the **Build Your Own Rain Barrel** workshops conducted by the **Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium**. Midlands residents who want to harvest rain water for their plants or for other household uses enjoy the opportunity to make a rain barrel at low cost and to share the experience with others.

On October 25, 2019, the workshop began at Lexington County Fire Services. Attendees were greeted and given class materials by Consortium members. Coffee, water, doughnuts & snacks were available.

The class, led by Sheri Armstrong, Stormwater Manager, included topics of stormwater runoff, rain harvesting, rain gardens and a demonstration of how to construct a rain barrel. A question-and-answer session concluded the class. Then it was time to go to the garages at Public Works to make rain barrels!



DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A RAIN BARREL?

Date: Friday, March 20, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Place: Irmo Municipal Building
7300 Woodrow Street
Irmo, South Carolina

Cost of the Workshop is \$25.00.

To register for this workshop, contact Mary Hite, Lexington County Community Development at (803) 785-8121 or by email at mhite@lex-co.com.

The workshop is limited to 25 paid registrants.



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IMPORTANT DATES

*Next LCSC Quarterly Meeting
Town of Pine Ridge
02/20/2020*

LEXINGTON COUNTY RECEIVES TREE GRANT



Arbor Day in South Carolina is observed on the first Friday of December. Palmetto Pride, a nonprofit organization dedicated to beautification of South Carolina by reducing litter, offers a Tree Grant annually that provides young trees to grantees who will plant them in public spaces and maintain them.

Research has shown that people are less likely to litter in attractive areas, thus the connection between Palmetto Pride and the Tree Grant. Lexington County's Solid

Waste Management and Community Development departments worked together to apply for 116 trees offered by the Tree Grant to plant on the grounds of 26 different Lexington County buildings and facilities that are frequented by County residents. Their proposal was accepted and the trees are currently being planted. Trees not only help beautify and reduce litter in landscaped areas, but also improve air quality, prevent erosion, prevent sedimentation and reduce stormwater runoff pollution in our waterways.



HOW TO REPORT AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE

WHAT IS AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE? Any discharge to the drainage system that is not composed entirely of storm water.

WHAT SHOULD YOU REPORT?

- Dumping of anything other than storm water (including yard waste) into a drainage system
- Leaking storage tank or spill
- Suspicious suds or substances floating on or in a stream, ditch or lake
- Failing septic system



HOW CAN YOU REPORT? Use the link below (also found at LCSWC.com) or call (803) 785-8121.

CAN YOU REPORT ANONYMOUSLY? Yes. You can remain anonymous by reporting it online.

[Click Here](#)

LARGEST MIDLANDS RECYCLING EVENT OF THE YEAR



Whitt Cline, Town of Irmo (far R) & his staff worked tirelessly to help the event to run efficiently & to accommodate all residents who brought items to drop off!



Staging area for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection. 16.4 tons of HHW were collected and taken out of the environment.

The largest recycling drop off event of 2019 was held at Irmo High School on Saturday October 12, 2019. An unprecedented 1,028 vehicles drove through the parking lot of the school between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. where tons of items were collected! The recycling staff of the Solid Waste Departments of both Lexington and Richland Counties coordinated and financed this event to serve residents of both counties. The City of Columbia helped with staff and materials. The *Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium* contributed funding for collection, transportation and safe disposal of household hazardous waste. *Keep the Midlands Beautiful* also assisted at the event. The tally of materials that were handled and collected that Saturday was incredible!

- 24.3 tons of electronics
- 16.4 tons of HHW
- 9.1 tons of paper were shredded onsite
- 3.58 tons of scrap metal
- 1.4 tons of tires
- 1.4 tons of materials for Goodwill

For information on the next drop off recycling event in Lexington County [Click here.](#)



MIDLANDS GREEN BUSINESS MEETING



We depend on an abundant supply of water, and clean water depends on us!

On October 29th *Midlands Green Business* members gathered in a room at the West Columbia Library for their quarterly meeting. These meetings provide an opportunity for business leaders to share ways their business practices protect the environment and benefit their bottom line in the process. Speakers for the meeting were Konrad Orzechowski, owner of Kay Plumbing and Gary Price, Environmental Coordinator with Lexington County. Mr. Orzechowski concentrated on tips for saving water at home and at work. Mr. Price explained best management practices for business owners in maintaining their stormwater ponds and in recognizing and reporting illicit discharges of pollutants into the stormwater system. Networking time, refreshments and door prizes were provided for attendees.

If you own or manage a business, large or small, become a member of the Midlands Green Business program by going to the [Keep The Midlands Beautiful](#) website for details and then

[Click Here](#) to fill out a membership application.



GRINDING OF THE GREENS!



Do you have a real Christmas tree? Take it to a "*Grinding of the Greens*" location between December 26, 2019 and January 9, 2020 to have it recycled into mulch. For information on locations to drop off your tree and specifics on how to prepare the tree for recycling, [Click here](#).

Do you have an artificial tree or Christmas lights that are no longer good? Don't put them in your curbside bin or leave them at your curb. Take them to any of Lexington County's Collection and Recycling Centers and put them in the "Scrap Metal" container.

For a *Holiday Recycling Guide*, [Click here](#)

RAIN BARREL INSTALLATION AT IRMO HIGH SCHOOL

Linda Byars, a Green Steps Schools volunteer, works with teachers and special needs students at Irmo High School on horticultural projects. She teaches gardening practices that protect the environment and provide floral beauty, variety and a source of organic vegetables for the **STING Deli**. The students enjoy getting their hands into the soil at the raised bed gardens and in the greenhouse at the school where they plant and tend seedlings or transplants.

Rain is a free source of water to irrigate their gardens that can be collected in rain barrels. Green Steps Schools mentor, John Oxner, District Manager of the Lexington Soil and Water Conservation District, gave a class on making rain barrels on November 10th. With guidance from Mr. Oxner, ten special needs students made two rain barrels that will be installed near the garden area under downspouts that will fill the barrels with rain that comes off the roof of the school. Students can use this water to fill watering cans. This was an exciting experience that will be documented in an upcoming edition of the *Stinger* school newspaper by Jack Ostergaard, **student journalist**. Photos for his article will be provide by Esra Buckson, student photographer.



Linda Byars & John Oxner
Green Steps Schools team



Student Journalist (L) & Photographer (R) with Peter Lauzon, Environmental Science Teacher



Student tries his hand at drilling inlet holes for rain to enter barrel.



Student drills hole for bushing and spigot with guidance by Mr. Oxner.



Student positions spigot using adjustable wrench.



Checking overflow outlet as rain barrel is completed.



Contact Information

Lexington County Land Development
Attn: Environmental Coordinator
212 South Lake Drive, Suite 400
Lexington, SC 29072
Phone: 803-785-8634

The next meeting of the *Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium* will be held on **February 20, 2020** at the Town of Pine Ridge. An Outlook invitation will be sent to participants prior to the meeting.

The Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium (LCSC) is comprised of the communities of Cayce, South Congaree, Springdale, West Columbia, Irmo, Pine Ridge, Lexington, and Lexington County. We seek to protect Lexington County's waterways and natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of our citizens.

We're on the web LCSWC.com