

# WATER WATCH

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

## Back to School Edition

With the weather cooling down and students going back to school, fall is quickly approaching! This edition will give you all of the fall tips and tricks to being sustainable. The newsletter will not only show how to keep pollution out of the waterways, but out of the air as well!

**A big announcement this fall: Rain Barrel Workshops are starting back up starting on September 10th! Sign ups will be released soon so be on the lookout.**



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## Trash the Poop



LCSC and City of Columbia teamed up to promote Trash the Poop at the August 24th Fireflies game and it was a huge success! If you missed us, its not too late! Bring your fur baby to the next Dog Days of Summer game, September 7th and stop by

our booth right behind the waiver table for fun games and prizes. Learn some new poop trivia, play our trash the poop game, and get some cool accessories for your dog. You may even get a chance to meet Mason the mascot!

### IMPORTANT DATES

*September 7th– Trash  
the Poop Table @  
Cola Fireflies Game*

*September 10th–  
Rain Barrel  
Workshop @ Edmund  
Landfill*

*September 17th–  
Annual Lakeside  
Litter Sweep @ Lake*

# Food Waste = Water Pollution?

Many environmental issues are tied into stormwater pollution, even food waste. Excessive food waste can enter our waterways and increase the DOM levels. DOM is dissolved organic matter, meaning anything that is broken down into its nutrients. High nutrient levels may sound good but they are deadly to animals. A high level of nitrogen, for example can cause anoxia (depletion of oxygen) in a stream and kill almost, if not all, of the wildlife. Food waste can contribute to a increase of DOM by being improperly disposed of.

Try some new ways to avoid food waste as a whole:

- \* Meal prep for the week to avoid buying random groceries
- \* Create new dishes with leftovers to feel motivated to finish them
- \* Donate any food you don't plan on using



If you have any food waste, dispose of it properly:

- \* Compost, many local libraries or schools even have public compost gardens if you do not want to do it yourself
- \* Clean out any cans, bags, or containers before recycling
- \* Don't litter and as a last resort place it in proper trash cans

# Composting 101

Composting is the best way to dispose of food waste, but can be intimidating to a beginner. It can be done in your backyard or in a public place. Edmund Landfill sells compost that you can buy to start your garden. Lexington County sells compost bins for approximately \$40 to put in your yard [here](#). USC's Green Quad has a compost bin that is open to the public for waste drop off.

## Some tips for composting:

- \* Put waste in freezer before dropping off in bulk to reduce smell
- \* Rotting pumpkins left over from Halloween and Thanksgiving are a perfect compost starter
- \* Indoor and Outdoor automatic compost bins can be purchased to save time

Sustainable Carolina at USC is a really good resource for anything compost related!

This graphic is from Sustainable Carolina showing what can be dropped off for the on campus compost



# Turn Your Key, Be Idle Free

It's officially back to school season! This includes waiting in a lot of car lines, especially for parents. Whether that means the school drop off lines, the drive through getting the breakfast your child begged for, or even standstill traffic on the way to work, don't let your car run.



fast your child begged for, or even standstill traffic on the way to work, don't let your car run. Idling is running the engine while not in motion. This is one of the major causes of air pollution in Lexington County and surrounding areas. Every gallon of gas burned produces more than 20 pounds of greenhouse gases! Not only is idling extremely harmful to the planet, it is terrible for humans— especially

children. Idling has been proven to be linked to asthma and cardiac conditions.

***It is illegal in South Carolina to let your car idle for more than 10 minutes per a 60 minute period as well as idling at all unattended!***



Stopping to idle will not only help the environment, but save you gas money!

[\\*Watch this short video parodying Myth Busters displaying the effects of idling -> https://youtu.be/9s5UwJkre1E](https://youtu.be/9s5UwJkre1E)



### Contact Information

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**The next quarterly meeting of the *Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium* is Wednesday, November 16, 2022 in the Town of Irmo**

*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](http://LCSWC.com)**