

WATER WATCH

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

Winter is Coming!

Winter is just around the corner and as you are preparing your vehicles, make sure its done sustainably. The first step is to check thoroughly for any fluid leaks. Even a small drop of oil from the car can pollute gallons of water. The same applies for antifreeze: properly dispose of it and never dump it on the ground or storm drain. If you are using an de-icing products on your driveway/sidewalk, choose natural products. Local hardware stores are able to help find the best option! This winter be prepared the sustainable way.



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Calling All Car Washes

Do you own a car wash and are interested in a new fundraiser? Then you are at the right place! Email jwarren@lex-co.com if you are interested in partnering with the Lexington Countywide Stormwater Consortium to support a good cause. Help prevent stormwater pollution one car at a time!



IMPORTANT DATES

Backyard Benefits Workshop—December, Date TBD

Preserve Your Pumpkins!

Did you know that around 1.3 BILLION pounds of pumpkins end up in US landfills each year? To make matters even worse, when they decompose in the landfills pumpkins emit methane... which contributes to the climate's warming 20 times more than carbon dioxide. So what should you do with the leftover Halloween and Thanksgiving pumpkins instead? Pumpkins are perfect to add to your compost bin, especially after using it for recipes! You can make so many unique recipes and we have even included some below!



- * Roasted pumpkin & feta salad by RecipeTinEats -> https://bit.ly/pumpkin_salad
- * Pumpkin Lasagna by the Food Network -> <https://bit.ly/lasagnapumpkin>
- * Pumpkin Spice Popsicles by the Food Network -> <https://bit.ly/pumpkinicepops>

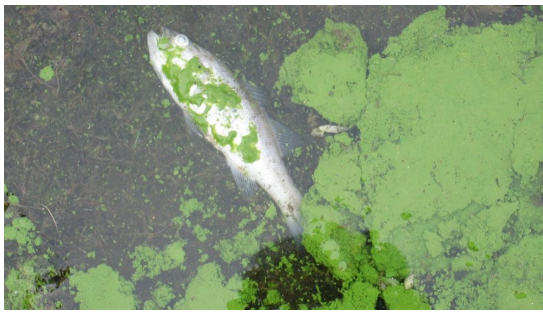
And of course the classic pumpkin pie and pumpkin bread



Some Zoos even allow you to donate an uncarved and unpainted pumpkin for the animals to eat! *Please call to ask before dropping any pumpkins off*

Leaves and Harmful Algal Blooms

Now that raking season is approaching, keep your lawn scraps for a backyard compost. Burning leaves or sweeping them into storm drains both cause a large amount of pollution. You may be thinking, how can leaves cause pollution if they are nature? If too many enter the waterways and when they break down, the nutrients they release are excess and create an algal bloom.



Algal blooms kill the animals and removes oxygen from the water. Harmful algal blooms (HABs) can happen in freshwater and salt-water. Taken directly from the CDC,

“Harmful algal blooms are the rapid growth of algae or cyanobacteria that can cause harm to people, animals, or the local ecology. Harmful algae or cyanobacteria can look like foam, scum, paint, or mats on the surface of water and can be different colors.” In case you are unsure of how much “greens” and “browns” to add, read this helpful article:

<https://bit.ly/compostyard>

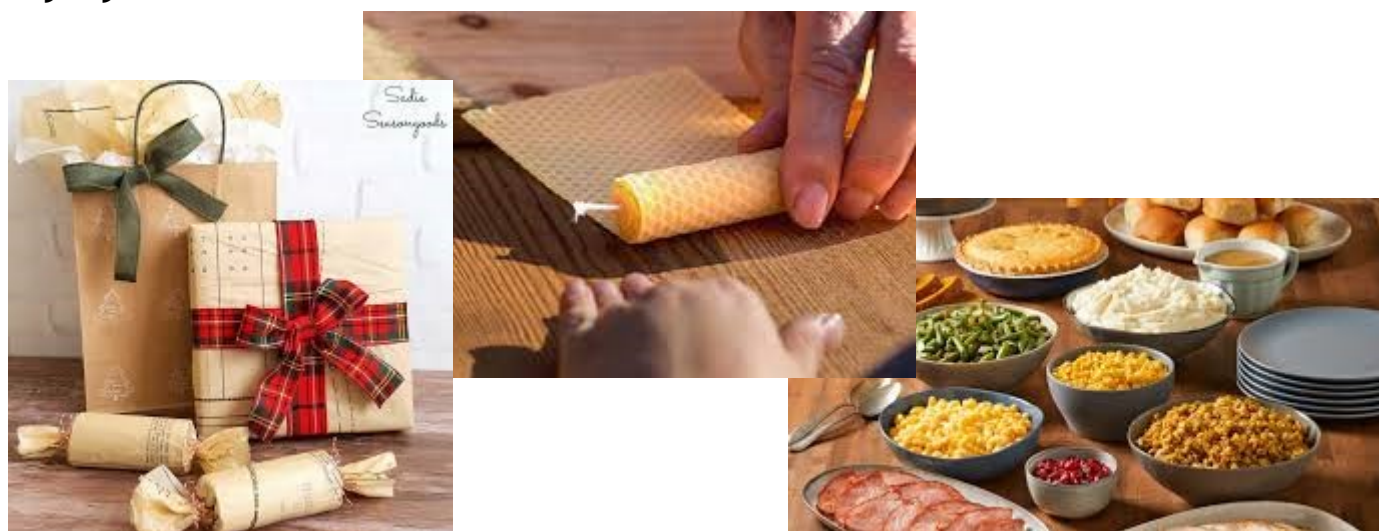


Holiday Trouble

With many holidays around the corner, there is a lot of opportunity for pollution. Here are some tips for sustainable holidays:

- * As mentioned earlier, properly dispose of pumpkins
- * Make your own wrapping paper, with newspapers or old brown bags- it's trendy right now anyways!
- * Use reusable utensils, napkins, and glassware for your holiday meals
- * Give sustainable gifts such as compost bins, reusable silverware set, and secondhand clothing
- * Serve locally grown food and reuse leftovers
- * Recycle any old lights and trees, real trees are more eco-friendly than plastic trees
- * Carpool to parties with friends and family
- * Make candles with beeswax

There are so many other unique ways to be sustainable this winter, but here are some that can be applied no matter what holidays you celebrate!





Contact Information

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

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