



# The GREENLEAF

Green Team Newsletter



Issue no. 6 December 2008

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## Back to Basics: Composting



According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), organic material accounts for about 20% of the waste stream. Composting organic material is the best alternative to throwing it away as trash. Not all commercial properties have the space to compost onsite, but for those properties interested in diverting organic material, it may be possible to find a volunteer that wants to compost office organics at home.

Finished compost has many benefits. Besides helping to reduce the amount of material going to the landfill, composting can improve the health of soil and reduce water usage. Finished compost should be "fed" to

Want to increase your green marketing footprint? Attract environmentally conscious customers? Need Green Team Decals and buttons? Members [click here](#) to order more flair for your workers and doors.



## Dear Team + Santa,

Happy Holidays everyone! If you are thinking about getting me a gift, what I really want *and need* is your recycling information for 2008!

I'm looking for **the total weight of your recycling from Jan 1 through Dec 31<sup>st</sup> of this year**. You can make reporting easier by using one of our standard forms. You can find the form with built in weight calculator [here](#).

**Reporting is due Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.** The first ten members to give a full and accurate report of their recycling will have their logos featured in a section of January's newsletter. Members that have not turned in their information by this date *will not be recognized* in the full-page Star-Telegram advertisement scheduled for early February.

If you have questions or need help with reporting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you a safe and happy Holidays,

Sincerely,  
Tim Yatko

Commercial Recycling Coordinator, City of Arlington

office plants to improve their health and prolong their life. A potted plant with a layer of compost can be watered before you leave for vacation and it will still be alive when you get back!

If you are interested in learning how to compost at home, the City of Arlington offers free backyard composting classes on the first and second Saturday of every month. To find out the times and locations of these classes, visit the [city's webpage](#). If you are an Arlington resident and attend one of these classes, you will receive a free composting bin (while supplies last). For those interested in taking composting up a notch, the City will be offering a class on worm composting (vermi-composting) in the

spring. One advantage worm composting has over backyard composting is the reduced space requirement. Worm compost bins can be stored under sinks or in closets. Just think, you won't have to throw out your office's coffee grounds ever again!



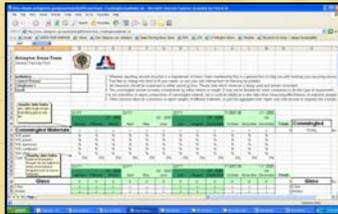
*Last year UTA diverted 27 tons of leaves and food by composting.*



## Our Newest Members

- ★ [Cardinal Shower Enclosures](#)
- ★ [Maren Karsen Salon](#)
- ★ [Cancer Research Foundation of North Texas](#)
- ★ [Iscar Metals, Inc.](#)
- ★ [The Pinnacle Corporation](#)
- ★ [Surgery Center of Arlington](#)
- ★ [Southern Flair Photography](#)
- ★ [Calloway's Nursery, Stores #22 & #108](#)

## Tracking and Reporting Center



Do you have a system for tracking your recycling every month? You can find an excel worksheet under "[resources](#)" on our webpage [www.ArlingtonGreenTeam.com](http://www.ArlingtonGreenTeam.com)

## Season Greetings from Environmental Services



Click the brochure or [here](#) to find out more about the City's Christmas programs

\*Leaf Recycling for Arlington Residents

\*Christmas Tree Recycling for Residents

\*Cooking Oil Recycling for Residents

## Centering on Recycling



Surgery Center of Arlington is an outpatient surgery center affiliated with local surgeons, United Surgical Partners, and Baylor Health Care System. The center has been operating in Arlington for over nine years. They offer a variety of surgical services, including orthopedic, gynecological, general, bariatric, podiatric and pain management. They recently started efforts to "go green" by setting up a recycling program for staff, patients and visitors.

The Surgery Center staff started talking about recycling in the summer of 2008 when they noticed just how much they were throwing away. "It was mostly water bottles, canned drinks, and cardboard," says recycling coordinator and registered nurse, D'Ann Shidler. She called several local recycling companies to find out about the services offered

Staff education and program setup was fairly straightforward. The staff was educated about what items could be put into the recycling bins. Signs were posted to remind staff to recycle, but also to inform visitors and Center patients about the program. "There were a few bumps getting the surgeons and assistants to change their habits, but after a few weeks of monitoring the collection bins and giving 'gentle reminders' about accepted materials for recycling, participation went up and contamination went down," says Shidler. "The custodial staff deserves special recognition for their enthusiasm towards recycling and their willingness to change their trash removal habits to accommodate recycling disposal as well." says Debbie McLeod, Administrator of Surgery Center of Arlington.

The program has been so successful and participation so high, that since the program's inception in September, the Center has had to increase their recycling pick-up service from once every two weeks to once a week. Because of the program, they have seen a 30 percent reduction in their daily trash. The Surgery Center of Arlington has definitely taken their recycling efforts to heart.

"We are excited about doing our part to go GREEN in Arlington, Texas!" says McLeod.



The Center has already increased its recycling service rate.

(left) Custodial staff at the dumpster.

