



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Q: How is turning off the lights being green?

A: Electricity comes from power plants, and the majority of today's power plants produce energy using non-renewable resources like coal, oil, natural gas, and other fossil fuels.

Q: Why can't we recycle pizza boxes?

A: Pizza boxes are cardboard, so technically they are recyclable, but what makes them un-recyclable is the grease from the pizza. It soaks into the cardboard, weakens the paper fibers, but mainly, it is difficult to separate out of the paper pulp. You can, however, tear the boxes up and compost them.

Q: Can I bring things from home to recycle?

A: Of course! As long as your products are contaminant free (mainly just no food residue or anything else dirty) and aren't overwhelming the dumpsters, feel free!

Q: What kind of plastics does Lamar recycle?

A: Lamar takes all plastics the City of Beaumont does: All plastics excluding plastic grocery bags, PVC, and styrofoam.

Q: Why aren't batteries supposed to be thrown away with general trash?

A: Batteries thrown away in general waste bins are highly likely to end up in landfills. In those landfills, it is easy for them to get punctured or eventually corrode which leads to battery acid dripping into the ground and contaminating groundwater.

Q: Is there any way I can recycle or even just dispose of items more efficiently?

A: Make sure you compact the items you're recycling/throwing away. For example: when throwing away a plastic bottle, crush then cap it to get rid of the air in the bottle so you can fit more in the trash. It also helps to break down cardboard boxes and pour out drinks before discarding them as well.

Q: Is compostable the same as biodegradable?

A: They are similar, but no. Biodegradable items can completely break down in any environment, including landfills, which saves space creating a healthier planet. Compostable materials need special conditions -- hence compost piles -- to break down like intense heat, moisture, bacteria, etc. Compostables usually add nutrients to the soil after breaking down.

Q: How can I save water in the restroom?

A: Turn off the water when brushing your teeth, turn off the water when shampooing, or shorten your shower times.

Questions or improvements you think we can make? Email us! lugreensquad@gmail.com



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Q: Can you compost waxed paper?

A: Yes. It takes a little longer than other things to break down, but it will eventually as long as you have a healthy compost heap.

Q: What's the difference between wax paper and parchment paper?

A: While most wax and parchment papers are petroleum-based, some wax papers are soy-based. Wax paper is not meant to be exposed to direct heat like in the oven, otherwise, the wax may melt or ignite. Parchment paper, however, is rated for temperatures up to 450°F or 232°C. All in all, you shouldn't use wax paper to bake, but it's totally fine for activities such as dipping strawberries in melted chocolate and letting them cool on there. Wax paper is also commonly used to separate meats in freezers and as food wrap. A good reusable alternative to parchment paper is a baking mat, but as always, you can usually reuse parchment paper several times.

Q: What do the numbers inside of the recycling symbol on plastic products mean?

A: The numbers tell what type of plastic that product is:

- 1- PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)
- 2- HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene)
- 3 - PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)
- 4 - LDPE (Low-Density Polyethylene)
- 5 - PP (Polypropylene)
- 6 - PS (Polystyrene)
- 7 - Other (BPA, Polycarbonate, etc.)

Plastics 1, 2, and 4 are the most commonly recycled while the others can be difficult to recycle, but reusing those products is always a good option -- especially PVC.

Q: What are some different ways I can live to promote a more sustainable lifestyle?

A:

- Recycle
- Use reusable bags when grocery shopping or even clothes shopping
- Opt for repairs that require less parts instead of replacing a whole product
- Go thrift shopping! Reuse and get something vintage and trendy!

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