



Sustainability Office Monthly Newsletter

December 2018- January 2019 Volume 1 Issue 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

12 Local Missourian Helps
Divert Plastic Feed Bags
From Landfills

Recyclemania Preview
and Sustainability
Tip of the Month

15

16 Featured Film of the
Month: Minimalism

Volunteer
Opportunities
Calendar

17

19 How to properly
recycle used plastic
gift cards



“This is my wish for you: peace of mind, prosperity through the year,
happiness that multiplies, health for you and yours, fun around every
corner, energy to chase your dreams, joy to fill your holidays!”

-- D.M. Dellinger, writer and activist

The byproduct of oil and natural gas, plastic bags, can take anywhere from 10 - 1,000 years to fully break down and decompose. In the meantime, the item can wreak havoc on the environment.

As society grows and the spread of single-use plastics continue to expand, some individuals are trying to do their part to divert as much plastic as possible from reaching landfills, oceans, lakes and fields. Elva Clark of Versailles, Missouri, is one individual who strives to do her part.

“I sew feed sack bags made from plastic,” Clark said as she lifted up large, lightweight plastic bags that showcased a variety of animals. She breathes new life into each bag as she converts it into a tote individuals can use when shopping or traveling.

The Missouri crafter said since the plastic is so heavy and durable, it makes sense why the bags wouldn't easily break down in the landfill. Clark still uses her very first prototype to this day and it's going strong after three years.

“They are so strong and if you carry something in it that leaves a residue or even like carrying food in from a garden or going to a farmers' market and carrying the produce (with) a little bit of dirt in it,” Clark said. “Just hold the garden hose in it and rinse it out. Where can you do that with any other bag.”

Clark's crafting project started out small. However, as farmers, veterinarians and community members heard about her efforts to recycle the sturdy sack, her stack of used bags grew.

“To date, I've made 1,740 bags,” Clark said. “That number alone tells me there's an interest.”

She gathered the idea when touring shops in Northern Missouri with her sister. After brainstorming on how she could reuse the plastic feed bags putting her own unique spin on them, Clark began sewing the bottoms of the bags and the handles to create a tote. Now, she creates up to 10 bags a day.

“I have my own sewing machine and thread,” Clark said. “And lots of time.”

Clark will be the newest vendor of MU Sustainability's Campus Farmers' Markets this spring. However, if you would like to purchase a long-lasting and heavy duty tote before then, Clark encourages individuals to call her at 573-378-0440. She makes trips to Columbia to see her grandchild and can deliver the tote upon request.



IN ADDITION TO creating reusable tote bags, Clark strives to recycle other household materials. She separates and recycles plastics, newspaper, cardboard, glass and aluminum. Clark and her husband even take their grass cuttings to the local golf course to help with the fairway's fertilization.

Each bag is sold for \$10 a piece, with 10 percent or more of the proceeds going toward a non-profit organization named Global Grace. This charity helps build, furnish and supply orphanages in India with the essentials they need.

“My daughter and husband who live in Detroit, Michigan, have started a foundation,” Clark said. “It’s called Global Grace. They are currently taking care of six orphanages and building one new one.”

As Clark explained, without the orphanages, the children would be “thrust out onto the street” so she does her part in anyway she can. Sometimes she will even donate 50 percent of her proceeds to help ensure this partnership that was started between her son-in-law and his friend who lives in Kakinada, India, can maintain their assistance with the children.

At the end of the day, Clark’s hobby which has developed into a small business helps children in need and the environment, covering the basis of social sustainability and environmental sustainability.

“I want to do my part, and I feel like if everybody did at least something, then it would be a beautiful place for the grandkids,” Clark said.



WHEN CLARK FIRST started creating the totes, she spoke with nearby farmers to see if they would be interested in donating their feed bags once emptied. She recollected that one local area farmer in particular informed her that he had burned thousands of plastic bags prior to her arrival. He was amazed at the fact that the bags could be reused. He’s now one of her regular feed bag suppliers.



Sustainability Tip of the Month

By Brock Andreasen

If you're like me and have been watching Elf on repeat since mid November, it's safe to say you're more than ready for the holiday season. Besides being extra jolly, there are a number of things everyone can do to be sustainable.

Give someone gifts that help raise awareness about sustainability, or help others be more sustainable!

Ditch ribbons and bows! Wrapping paper can totally be recycled as long as it's not glittery, metallic, or velvety, but the bows and ribbons can wreak havoc on the machines that sort paper recycling.

Use a reusable gift bag! Instead of asking your friend's mom to help you figure out how to wrap presents, use a reusable bag. It'll cut down on paper consumption and wrapping paper paper-cuts. Win win!

Take the time to learn about someone else's holiday season culture. We all have our own special way of celebrating this great time of year, but learning how and what others celebrate during the holiday season can be a great way to broaden your perspectives!



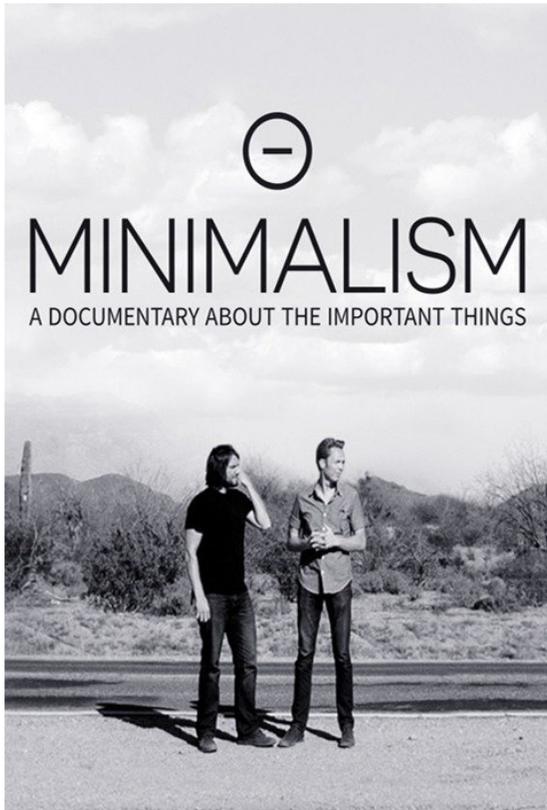
For more information about recycling during the holiday season, check out the USA Today article, [Bows, glitter, ribbon are not recyclable. Here's how to recycle your Christmas wrapping paper](#)



MU Sustainability is excited to announce that Mizzou will be participating in this year's 8-week Recyclemania competition and we're hoping our recycling efforts rank above our SEC rivals: University of Kentucky and University of Tennessee! This year's competition will begin Feb. 1 and end March 30.

Stay tuned to our social media outlets and website for more information!

Featured Film of the Month



Minimalism

Rating: NR

Running Time: 1h 18m

Genres: Documentaries, Science and Nature

Where to Watch: Youtube, Google Play, Amazon Prime, iTunes and Netflix

What is it About: *“How might your life be better with less? Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things examines the many flavors of minimalism by taking the audience inside the lives of minimalists from all walks of life—families, entrepreneurs, architects, artists, journalists, scientists, and even a former Wall Street broker—all of whom are striving to live a meaningful life with less.”*

For more information visit <https://minimalismfilm.com/>

Request a Sustainability Presentation

The Sustainability Office Student Ambassadors provide peer-education and outreach activities for MU students to understand how they can be more sustainable in their community. Ambassadors also offer presentations for sororities, fraternities, classes, organizations and clubs to learn more about the Sustainability Office’s programs and efforts which students campus-wide can take part in throughout their daily lives.

If your class, organization, greek life or club is interested in learning more about the following MU Sustainability efforts, [request a Sustainability Office Ambassador presentation.](#)

- Tiger Tailgate Recycling and Recycling on Campus
- Bike Resource Center – Bike Repairs
- Mizzou Bike Share and Bike Safety
- Tiger Treasures and Why Donations Matter
- Farmers’ Market Events and Food Sustainability
- Water Bottle Recycling and Water Conservation
- What is sustainability?
- Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability Overview



December & January Volunteer Calendar

Sign up for the following events by using our [OrgSynch Volunteer Form](#).

Candy Cane Outreach

December

Thursday

6

Handout candy canes to students at the MU Student Center and Ellis Library to wish them good luck on finals.

Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: MU Sustainability Office

Recyclemania Info Session

January

Friday

25

From Feb. to March MU will be participating in an 8-week Recyclemania Competition. Attend this 45-minute info session to learn how you can get involved in a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the competition.

Time: 12 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Location: MU Sustainability Office

Notebook Making With Columbia Preschoolers

January

Monday

28

The Center for Early Learning-North has a group of 15 preschoolers who are wanting to learn how to make our famous recycled notebooks. If you'd like to help out our team we'll meet at the MU Sustainability Office at 8 a.m. for a brief notebook tutorial before departing for CELN.

Time: 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Location: MU Sustainability Office

January

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Sustainability Outreach

Is your club/organization interested in hosting a sustainability-focused event? Meet with one of our Student Ambassadors to map out your event details and/or request a presentation from our team. We can also assist with promoting your event via social media.

Time: TBD
Location: TBD



Campus & Community Events

Dec. 1	(Link)	Weatherization	Sustain Mizzou	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Dec. 4	(Link)	Warm Up With the Unions	MU Student Center	10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dec. 4	(Link)	STEM: The Great Equalizer?!	220 Townsend Hall	11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Dec. 7	(Link)	First Friday in December	Centro Latino	6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Dec. 14	(Link)	Christmas at the Magic Tree	Village of Cherry Hill	5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Dec. 14	(Link)	Winter Break Begins	MU Campus	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	(Link)	Spring Semester Begins	MU Campus	8 a.m.

We have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, warns UN

Urgent changes needed to cut risk of extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty, says IPCC

● [Overwhelmed by climate change? Here's what you can do](#)



▲ A firefighter battles a fire in California. The world is currently 1C warmer than preindustrial levels. Photograph: Ringo HW Chiu/AP

The world's leading climate scientists have warned there is only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

The authors of the landmark report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released on Monday say urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach the target, which they say is affordable and feasible although it lies at the most ambitious end of the [Paris agreement](#) pledge to keep temperatures between 1.5C and 2C.

The half-degree difference could also prevent corals from being completely eradicated and ease pressure on the Arctic, according to the 1.5C study, which was launched after approval at a final plenary of all 195 countries in Incheon in South Korea that saw delegates hugging one another, with some in tears.

[Finish Reading This Article Here](#)



How to Recycle Used Plastic Gift Cards

During the holiday season you may receive gift cards from family and friends, but how do you recycle the plastic piece after you're finished with it? It's plastic so does it go in a recycling bin labeled plastic? No, unfortunately plastic gift cards are constructed out of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) making it very difficult to recycle. When disposed of improperly one gift card could contaminate up to a half ton of recycled plastic due to the chemicals used in PVC.

When you're finished with your gift card ask the cashier if they have a recycling program. Stores like Macy's and Best Buy offer a recycling program where you can recycle your used cards for free.

You can also mail your old gift cards to Earthworks Systems, which is a company that produces and recycles plastic gift cards made from PVC. The only cost associated with this recycling route is postage. Earthworks Systems' mailing address is:

Earthworks e/o Halprin Ind.
25840 Miles Rd.
Bedford, OH 44146



Shoutout to December Graduates!

From everyone at MU Sustainability, we'd like to congratulate you, one of the many December 2018 graduates, as you get ready to walk across that stage and accept your diploma. You've survived all the late night studying, the papers, the exams, the balance between a social life and an academic life, and everything in between. Congratulations class of December 2018!



Sustainability
University of Missouri



Diwali

Kwanzaa

Boxing Day

Winter Solstice

Hanukkah

Happy Holidays

Bodhi Day

Mawlid el-Nabi

St. Nicholas Day

Feast Day of Our
Lady of Guadalupe

Christmas

Las Posadas



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