



The Leon County

LINK

Connecting Citizens
with Leon County
Services

Start Backyard Composting with a New Earth Machine

Leon County Recycling and City of Tallahassee Solid Waste Services are hosting a truckload sale of Earth Machine™ backyard composters on Saturday, April 26, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tallahassee Mall in front of Goody's Department Store. On this day only, you can purchase a composter for just \$30 - a significant savings from the \$100 retail price. Experts will also be on-hand to help educate buyers on the benefits of composting.



Earth Machines™ help reduce more than 600 pounds of organic yard and kitchen materials per household per year. The Earth Machine™ composts fruits, vegetables, crushed eggshells, tea bags, coffee grounds and filters from the kitchen. Garden mulched leaves, dried grass, garden plants, old potting soil and soft stem plants can be composted as well. After about six to eight weeks, these materials are naturally broken down into humus that homeowners can use to enrich the soil in their gardens.

Leaves, grass and kitchen scraps represent 30 percent of the amount of garbage going into landfills. By reducing this waste, harmful greenhouse gases are reduced. Not only are Earth Machines™ friendly to the environment, they are friendly to your wallet by providing naturally moistened soil that results in a savings on water bills. Earth Machines™ can be purchased by cash or check. For more information on this event, please contact Leon County Recycling at 606-1823 or City of Tallahassee Utilities at 891-4968.

Citizens Find Avenue to Volunteerism on Street of Service



April is Volunteer Month, and this year's Street of Service is being held in conjunction with the First Annual Circle the Square for Peace Celebration taking place at the Railroad Square Art Park on Sunday, April 13, from 12 to 5 p.m. Join VolunteerLEON, the Big Bend Directors of Volunteers Association and the shops and studios of the Railroad Square Art Park for a fun-filled, family-oriented afternoon with

live entertainment, food and hands-on activities provided by area businesses and organizations for children of all ages.

More than fifty civic and service organizations will be represented on the Street of Service. Citizens can find out about each organization's volunteer opportunities including "family volunteering."

"We developed the Street of Service in 2000 to give citizens the opportunity to put faces with the names of organizations that need volunteers," said VolunteerLEON Director Jeri Bush. "Now more than ever, we are keenly aware of the vital role everyday people play in making a difference in our communities."

A service provided by the Leon County Board of County Commissioners, VolunteerLEON is the key resource for volunteer involvement in the Big Bend area. The Volunteer Center brings together individuals, non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, faith-based communities, and civic groups in order to meet community needs through a range of programs and services. Big Bend Directors of Volunteers Association promotes the professional development of managers of volunteers and the effective use of volunteers in our community. To learn more about the Volunteer Center and the Big Bend Directors of Volunteers Association, please visit www.VolunteerLEON.org.

For more information about the Street of Service, including information on how to exhibit, please call Jeri Bush, Director of VolunteerLEON, at 606-1970.



County Residents Come Together to Take Action on Climate Change

Energy consumption ranks among the top economic and environmental challenges to our nation in the 21st century, and it's time that we, the citizens of Leon County, address our own energy consumption. More than 400 people came together last week to do just that at the Leon County Climate Action Summit. The Board of County Commissioners hosted the Summit, along with co-sponsors, the City of Tallahassee, the Tallahassee Democrat and the Environmental Defense Fund, to ensure a sustainable future for our community, our economy and our way of life.

The Summit brought together members from all parts of the community, including residents, businesses, scientists and engineers, to talk about a variety of environmental issues ranging from residential landscaping to land use planning. However, unlike most events of this kind, the Climate Action Summit was designed to look beyond political arguments about "Global Warming," and instead looked at practical, kitchen table economics. Participants were educated about new, emerging technologies and cost-saving strategies to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy demand.

The Climate Action Summit offered a broad spectrum of information on for homeowners, business owners, planners, and policy-makers alike. Participants attended sessions on green landscaping, new urbanism, green financing, and opportunities in the carbon market. Participants also had the opportunity to get a "sneak preview" of the new high-tech energy exhibit at the Mary Brogan Museum of Arts and Science called "Your Energy Generation."

Leon County Schools supported the Climate Action Summit by hosting a district-wide essay contest. The winners were Tishian Mahmud, a fifth grader at Hawks Rise Elementary School, and Kaitlin Duchene, seventh grader at Swift Creek Middle School.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to extend a special thanks to the Summit's co-sponsors, the Tallahassee Democrat, the Environmental Defense Fund and the City of Tallahassee, as well as the numerous other supporters who contributed to the event.

For more than a century and a half, the rest of the state has looked to Leon County for leadership. In the 21st century, Leon County will stake out a leadership role in powering Florida to a brighter energy future. The Leon County Climate Action Summit is the just the first step as our community moves towards "growing green."

Visit www.leoncountyfl.gov/growinggreen for more information on the Climate Action Summit and what you can do to reduce your own carbon footprint.

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April 2008

Board of County Commissioners Schedule

- 8 Board of County Commissioners Meeting, 3 p.m.**
Public Hearings, 6 p.m.
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- 10 Joint County/City/Wakulla County Workshop Regarding the Protection of Wakulla Springs, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
Wakulla Springs Lodge, 550 Wakulla Park Dr.
- 15 Mayor/Chair Meeting**
City Hall, 300 S. Adams, 4th Floor, Room 4F
- 22 Board of County Commissioners Meeting, 3 p.m.**
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers

The Link is produced by the Leon County Public Information Office,
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