

Halloween Waste Reduction Tips



1) Celebrate with durable, reusable, and recyclable decorations.

- Choose decorations that you can use year after year.
- For recyclable decorations, look for plastics that are #1-5 or #7, as #6 and unlabeled plastics are not recyclable. Avoid metallic or glitter-coated decorations, as these cannot be recycled. Questions? Check out icgov.org/recycle.

2) Create an eco-friendly costume.

- Get creative with what you already have around the house to create a costume.
- Share costumes with friends.
- Shop secondhand. Check out the Iowa City Area Resale and Consignment Directory for costumes at icgov.org/reduce.

3) Offer sustainable treats.

- Consider candy options with less packaging, organic or Fairtrade status. Alternatively, offer a treat other than candy.
- Sometimes individually-wrapped candy is the easiest and safest option. In this case, you can still make a difference by recycling the candy wrappers through [Terracycle](https://www.terracycle.com).

4) Collect candy and treats in a reusable or durable container.

- Consider a reusable cloth bag, pillow case, or wicker basket (among many other options).

5) Compost pumpkins and gourds.

- Iowa City curbside customers can compost at the curb. Remove any candles or lights from inside your pumpkin and place it in your organics container (City cart, or personal 20-35 gallon upright container), or in a paper yard waste bag, and then set it at the curb by 7 a.m. for collection on your normal service day.
- Residents can also take pumpkins to the Iowa City Landfill's compost facility to be composted at no cost.

Sign up to receive curbside service notices at icgov.org/subscribe.