

# Halloween Waste Reduction Tips



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

- Choose quality, durable decorations that you can use year after year. This saves money and reduces waste over time.
- If you prefer recyclable decorations, avoid metallic or glitter-coated decorations, as these cannot be recycled. More information at [icgov.org/recycle](https://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](https://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. Most wrappers are not recyclable, so be sure to place these in the trash once the candy is eaten.

## 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 yellow-top organics cart or in a paper yard waste bag, and then set it at the curb by 7 a.m. on your collection 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](https://icgov.org/subscribe).