

LIVING & MOVING GREEN - SUPPORT PACKAGE



Green Halloween

Halloween is a time to celebrate the harvest, dress up in creative costumes, and the coming winter season. Nowadays, the concept of Halloween has become more commercial. Money is spent on candy, costumes, and decorations which adds up to billions every year. These consumption habits create an immense environmental impact that lasts well after you've eaten the last of your candy.

For school Halloween parties, there are lots of ways to party sustainably. Halloween doesn't require being wasteful nor an abundance of money. Scary stories, dressing up, and spooking our friends can all be achieved with a bit of planning and imagination. Making your own costume will be more impressive, and cost less, and reduces consumerism and waste. You can use materials you already have at home. Just use your imagination!

You can also decorate your classroom by reusing different things you could find around the house. See the suggestions below or come up with your own creative ideas for upcycled decorations.

Action Plan

Get crafty. The first step is to check out the Green Schools NS [Green Halloween Pinterest Board](#) for great ideas and inspiration. Here are some other tips to ensure you reduce your Halloween Carbon Footprint.

Decorations. Instead of buying decorations, gather supplies throughout the year. Some ideas include: [turning stockings with runs into spider webbing](#), [making boxes into tombstones](#), [cotton ball spider webs](#), or [witches brooms from sticks and straw](#).

Costumes. Buy second hand from thrift stores or yard sales. You could host a Halloween costume swap for students like [Green School West Pictou Consolidated](#). Students who brought in a costume exchanged it for one from another student. You'll learn more about swaps from the [Stuff Swap Support Package](#). Making your own costume is another option. You could turn it into a classroom challenge. Let the students see who can make the best costume from reused materials.

Parties. Ditch disposable cups, plates and cutlery. Get students to bring in their own dishes to use and take home. Apply labels if needed so party-goers can keep track of their things. Single-use plastic items waste our resources and really add up in the landfill.

Treats. Buy local, organic, or fair trade foods, candies and treats. Look for minimal packaging and/or packaging made with recycled materials. Make your own. Candy apples, homemade chocolate-pops, fudge and more will be a big hit. You can also make [seed paper bookmarks](#) to pass out instead of sugary candies.

Trick-or-Treat bags. Use reusable household items for collecting candies. A bucket, pillowcase, or a reusable shopping bag will work, and can be used again after Halloween night.

Pumpkins. If you can, go to a local pumpkin patch to get your pumpkin. Or better yet, grow your own! Kids can learn while watching them grow. When carving jack-o-lanterns, keep the pumpkin insides. [Toast the seeds as tasty snacks](#), and make pumpkin pie or muffins with the fruit, or you can compost it.



Transportation. Encourage students to trick-or-treat by walking in groups instead of using a car to drive from house to house. Avoiding unnecessary car trips is a great way to waste less and help the Earth.

Compost & recycle. From food waste to pumpkins, refuse to use wasteful items, reduce waste where possible, reuse any waste in creative ways, compost everything you can, and recycle all recyclables.

Reuse. Saving costumes and decorations from year to year reduces waste and saves money. Store your Halloween materials, and you can have a spontaneous Halloween-themed party any time of year!

Phantom Power. Did you know appliances and electronics draw a small amount of electricity even when they're turned off? We call this wasted energy Phantom Power or Vampire Power. There's no better time to talk about Phantom Power than at Halloween. Ask your Engagement Officer for the Green Schools NS Phantom Friday support package and check out our [Green Schools NS Phantom Power Activity](#).



[DIY Lego costume from a box and yogurt cups](#)



[DIY Jellyfish costume](#)

Resources

[Waste Reduction Week](#)

[WWF Green Halloween Tips](#)

[21 Halloween Costumes You Can Make With a Box](#)

[30 Halloween Party Ideas that Cost Less & WasteLess](#)

[How To Make Candy Apples](#)

[Vampire Power Video](#)

[Vampire Energy Video](#)