For children, Halloween is pretending to be their favorite TV character or spooky creature and of course, candy; for adults, Halloween is hosting dress-up dinner parties to escape reality and let loose for one night. Halloween is definitely fun, but it is also one of the least environmentally friendly holidays with all the candy wrappers, light intensive decorations and costumes made out of non-biodegradable materials. Here are a few tips on how to make this year’s Halloween a fun and eco-friendly one.

**Costume**

There are a few ways you can reduce the environmental impact of Halloween costumes: bring out your inner creativity by designing your own costume using unwanted items or old clothing. Click here for ideas. Replace face masks with natural face paint, and create fake blood using corn syrup and food coloring. You can also make a trip to your local thrift store to find materials that you might need, and maybe even find the costume that you’ve been looking for!

**Trick or Treat**

Instead of buying another plastic pumpkin to hold all the tasty treats, try replacing it with a reusable shopping bag this year!
HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS ARE ARGUABLY THE MOST WASTEFUL PART OF HALLOWEEN AS THEY TEND TO CONTAIN EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF PLASTIC. TRY MAKING YOUR OWN, YOU WILL NOT ONLY SAVE MONEY BUT THE ENVIRONMENT AS WELL! A FEW EXAMPLES OF DIY DECORATIONS INCLUDE MAKING BATS OUT OF EGG CARTONS, OR FLOATING GHOSTS USING UNWANTED WHITE LINEN SHEETS. YOU CAN ALSO MAKE LIGHT UP TIN CANS/LANTERNS BY POKING HOLES IN A SOUP CAN TO CREATE AN IMAGE, THEN PLACING TEA LIGHTS INSIDE TO MAKE IT GLOW.

IF YOUR HOUSE GETS A LOT OF TRICK OR TREATERS EVERY YEAR, CONSIDER BUYING ORGANIC AND NON-GMO CANDY SUCH AS YUMEARTH, WHICH IS HEALTHIER THAN THE CONVENTIONAL STORE Bought CANDY AND BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AS WELL BECAUSE IT DOESN’T CONTAIN PESTICIDES OR CHEMICALS. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN ALSO TRY GIVING OUT OTHER TYPES OF TREATS SUCH AS BRACELETS MADE OUT OF RECYCLED FLIP FLOPS OR COMPOSTABLE PENCILS, WHICH WILL GROW INTO HERBS OR FLOWERS WHEN YOU PLANT THEM. THESE TREATS ARE ECO-FRIENDLIER AND MIGHT EVEN HELP CHILDREN LEARN A THING OR TWO ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY!

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO WILL BE HOISING A PUMPKIN COMPOSTING EVENT FOR RESIDENTS ON NOVEMBER 2ND, CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION. IF YOU ARE AN EDCO CUSTOMER, YOU CAN ALSO PUT YOUR PUMPKINS IN THE GREEN BIN IF THEY ARE CLEAN AND UNPAINTED. TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WASTEFREESD.ORG AND SEARCH FOR PUMPKIN DISPOSAL IN YOUR AREA.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN