

BOARD LINES

A MONTHLY TRAINING NEWSLETTER FROM KEEP TENNESSEE BEAUTIFUL TO TENNESSEE KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL LOCAL AFFILIATE BOARD MEMBERS



We're Engaged! The Life of a Board Member

Every organization benefits from an engaged board. When the board is engaged, it sets a tone and direction that is inspiring.

When board members are engaged, they attend meetings and show up prepared and on time. They serve as advocates for the institution, sharing their knowledge of its vision, mission, activities, future directions, and impact. They understand the challenges facing the institution and are creative in helping to find solutions and attract resources. They are team members who respect each other and are willing to check their egos at the door. The good of the institution is paramount. As team members, they are willing to roll up their sleeves and help make things happen. They are accessible and willing to partner with the executive director and staff members, volunteers, donors, and funders to create solutions that help the organization deliver on its mission.

Engaged board members welcome transparency and accountability, and understand the need for honesty and policies that guard against conflicts of interest. They commit, as a collective body, to raising a meaningful percentage of the organization's budget. Each member donates his or her own gift to the organization.

Committee chairs convene their committees and ensure goals and activities tie to the organization's larger strategic direction. Committees encourage participation by individuals from outside the board who can contribute expertise, skills, and resources. Committee reports are distributed in advance of the board meeting so members can read them in advance.

Engaged board members are proactive in iden-

tifying opportunities and in alerting each other, and the staff, to potential challenges.

When they have questions, they ask them. If they feel the organization is not headed in the right direction, they encourage thoughtful discussion. When they learn of developments in the field that could impact the organization, they share the information.

When an outside



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America Recycles Day

November is here, which means it is time to celebrate America Recycles Day, the only nationally recognized event dedicated to the promotion of recycling programs in the United States. Tennessee will celebrate ARD throughout the month of November. Visit www.ktnb.org/ARD for all your ARD needs.

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Keep America Beautiful 58th National Conference Harrah's Hotel New Orleans Nov. 30-Dec. 2

Time is running out for you to make plans to attend this year's KAB National Conference. This year, KTnB and TDOT will pay \$200 towards the registration of one person per affiliate to attend the conference. When you are registering, enter TN200 when it asks if you have a discount code. Register by clicking [HERE!](#)

Send us your email address to receive BoardLines: emcdavis@memphis.edu.

BOTTOM LINE

"In every community there is work to be done. In every nation there are wounds to heal.
In every heart there is the power to do it." - *Marianne Williamson*

Have an Eco-Friendly Thanksgiving: Reduce Your Impact on the Environment

1. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle-To make your Thanksgiving celebration as eco-friendly as possible, start with the three Rs of conservation: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Reduce the amount of waste you produce by buying only as much as you need and choosing products that come in packaging that can be recycled. Carry reusable bags when you do your shopping, and use cloth napkins that can be washed and used again. Recycle paper, and all plastic, glass, and aluminum containers. If you don't already have a compost bin, use your Thanksgiving fruit and vegetable trimmings to start one. The compost will enrich the soil in your garden next spring.

2. Buy and Eat Locally Grown Food-Buying only locally grown food is one good way to have an eco-friendly Thanksgiving. Locally grown food is good for your table, your health, and the environment. Locally grown food tastes better than food that has to be grown and packaged for maximum shelf life, and it requires less fuel to reach store shelves. Locally grown food also contributes more to your local economy, supporting local farmers as well as local merchants.

3. Make Your Meal Organic-Using only organic food for your feast is another good eco-friendly Thanksgiving strategy. Organic fruits, vegetables, and grains are grown without chemical pesticides and fertilizers; organic meat is produced without antibiotics and artificial hormones. The result is food that is better for your health and good for the environment. Organic farming also produces higher yields, increases soil fertility, prevents erosion, and is more cost-effective for farmers.

4. Celebrate at Home-Thanksgiving weekend is one of the heaviest for highway travel in the United States. This year, why not reduce global warming and improve air quality by lowering your auto emissions and your family's stress level? Skip the stressful holiday travel and celebrate an eco-friendly Thanksgiving at home.

5. Travel Smart-If you must go over the river and through the woods, there are still ways to have an eco-friendly Thanksgiving. If you drive, use less fuel and lower your emissions by making sure your car is in

good working order and your tires are properly inflated. If possible, carpool to reduce the number of cars on the road and lower the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to air pollution and global warming. If you fly, consider purchasing carbon credits to offset your portion of the carbon dioxide emissions generated by your flight. A typical long-haul flight produces nearly four tons of carbon dioxide.

6. Invite the Neighbors-The original Thanksgiving was a neighborly affair. Having survived their first winter in America only through the generosity of the native people who lived nearby, the Pilgrims of Plymouth Rock celebrated a bountiful harvest with a three-day feast to give thanks to God and their Native American neighbors. Your neighbors probably haven't saved your life, but chances are they have done things to make your life easier or more enjoyable. Inviting them to share your eco-friendly Thanksgiving is an opportunity to say thank you, and also to reduce auto emissions by keeping more people off the road or ensuring shorter trips.

7. Make Your Own Eco-Friendly Decorations-With a few simple supplies and a little imagination, you can make great eco-friendly Thanksgiving decorations and have a lot of fun in the process. Colored construction paper can be cut or folded into simple Pilgrim, turkey and harvest decorations. Later, the paper can be recycled. Baker's clay, made from common kitchen ingredients, can be shaped and molded into holiday figures and colored with non-toxic paints or food coloring. Use baker's clay to make whimsical turkey, Pilgrim and other table decorations that will draw compliments from your Thanksgiving guests for years.

Information courtesy of www.about.com

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perspective could help, they suggest consultants, workshops, or a visit from a leader of a comparable organization.

Hearing an executive director say, "My board supports me 100 percent all the time," can be an alarm. It makes you wonder, "Is that a good thing?" A board that questions and encourages additional ways of looking at a situation can contribute to organizational health. When a board rubber-stamps the work of an executive director, it might be a signal that board members are not engaged. Look at your board-what do you see?

Information courtesy of www.saadandshaw.com



Keep Tennessee Beautiful's mission is to educate and rally Tennesseans to take personal responsibility for improving their community environments through litter prevention, beautification and waste reduction. Located at The University of Memphis, Extended Programs Division, KTnB is sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

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