

For immediate release  
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## **Green Halloween and zoos around the country are providing communities with ‘Spooktacular’ eco-friendly Halloween events and a ROARING good time**

Seattle, WA, October **INSERT DATE** 2010: Green Halloween® and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) have partnered to provide communities with healthy, animal-friendly and EEK-O-fabulous Halloween events for the whole family. [www.greenhalloween.org](http://www.greenhalloween.org)

Scary increasing rates of childhood obesity, frightening chemicals in commercially-manufactured costumes and witchy amounts of waste from Halloween products make some traditional Halloween options not very sweet.

But Green Halloween and AZA take such ghoulish practices out of Halloween rituals and provide trick-or-treaters with worry-free ways to celebrate that are healthy for them and their animal friends. Green Halloween and AZA are treating families to fun and Earth-friendly alternatives at participating zoo and aquarium locations. Events and booths will show goblins and grownups how to apply the 3Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle to Halloween activities, to help create healthier traditions for kids and the Earth.

Visit <http://greenhalloween.org/zoosandaquariums> for more information.

Sample activities may include:

- Healthy and environmentally-friendly treats and treasures
- Green costume contests using recycled and recyclable materials
- Reusable goodie bags

If your local zoo is not sponsoring a Green Halloween event, don't worry, there are many great options you can try at home.

Alternative-to-candy and Earth-friendly Halloween options may limit the sugar high and high resource consumption, but there is no limit to the fun, creativity and excitement for the whole family.

Simple tips to make your Halloween healthier and greener include:

- **Used to giving out handfuls?** Cut back by 25%. Kids won't notice the difference, but you'll save money.
- **Prefer to hand out treasures?** Empty your kids' pockets! Get inspired by the treasures they store—shiny rocks, feathers, sea shells. Stock up on these types of items and offer a choice. See what happens.
- **Looking for alternatives to conventional candy?** Choose healthier treats toddlers to teens love including snack bars, organic lollipops, fruit snacks, or all natural gum.
- **Always purchased new costumes?** This year, SWAP! National Costume Swap Day is October 9th, so before heading to the big box store, look for a local costume swap. Check out <http://www.greenhalloween.org/CostumeSwap/index.html>
- **In the habit of buying new Halloween décor every year?** Try exchanging old for new-to-you with friends and neighbors or find at your local Goodwill. Consider using edible items like pumpkins and other types of squash that can be turned into yummy soups and dishes after Halloween. Host a make-it-take-it décor party before the big day. Pull out every black, purple or orange item in your home and decorate with those. Search online for how to make décor out of items you'd normally toss.

Hundreds of other suggestions are available at [www.GreenHalloween.org](http://www.GreenHalloween.org), along with ways everyone can participate. Schools, community and government groups, dentists and doctors, all will find easy-to-implement ideas. Look for official Green Halloween® events in your local area by visiting [www.GreenHalloween.org](http://www.GreenHalloween.org) or create your own with tips and resources from for Green Halloween and its sponsors.

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Green Halloween is a non-profit, grassroots community initiative that helps families celebrate healthier and environmentally-friendly holidays, starting with Halloween. It is a non-profit program of EcoMom® Alliance. [www.GreenHalloween.org](http://www.GreenHalloween.org). For more information about Green Halloween or Celebrate Green or to obtain photos, contact [Lynn@GreenHalloween.org](mailto:Lynn@GreenHalloween.org)