



## Better Manage Waste As You Celebrate Easter

With the Easter just around the corner, many in Guyana, like in several other countries would be busy making plans to observe this significant holiday. Apart from the usual church going, the Easter weekend is also packed with fun filled activities as many persons flock the recreational spots such as the sea walls, various parks and grounds to picnic and fly kites while for others it would be a day at the creek with family and friends.

In all the Easter festivities, however, one thing that cannot be avoided is **waste**. Waste is an inevitable part of life but the manner in which we manage it determine how it will affect our health, wealth and the environment.

As responsible citizens, there are many simple and cost-free ways to reduce our waste and dispose of whatever waste we produce in a sound manner. So get on board and join the many people that will do the right thing and put disposable cups and plates into a bin at the park, or creek site OR waste home to dispose of it in household bins. Let Easter be a time when we also resolve to do our part to keep our roads, parapets and drains free of litter. After all we know that litter looks ugly and is smelly. Further, no one likes to be pestered by flies and mosquitoes; litter creates conditions for these insects to breed e.g. by blocking drains and trenches making the water in them stagnant.



### Steps to reduce your waste as you have family time at a creek or park

#### *Food preparation*

- ✚ Take your reusable bags to the shop - refuse plastic bags! It takes a lot of energy to manufacture plastics which does not even decompose naturally – it remains in the environment for decades!!
- ✚ Plan meals properly to avoid excessive cooking and food wastage. Save any leftovers for later or give to those in need.
- ✚ Know what you need before going into the refrigerator to ensure you take all your items out at one time rather than opening the refrigerator door several times – in this way you save energy.
- ✚ Ensure that the pot or pan you use complement the burner size; it should not be too small or too large for the burner – this will save on gas.

*Littering is an offence,  
you can be charged up to  
one hundred thousand  
dollars (\$100,000).*

- ✚ Compost kitchen food scraps, e.g., fruit and vegetable wastes (no meat or grease). This reduces the amount of unnecessary waste going to the landfill.

### *On the road*

- ✚ Do not throw garbage out of the windows of the moving vehicle you in which you are travelling.
- ✚ Use air conditioning in your vehicle only when absolutely necessary – instead enjoy the fresh air. Consider winding down the windows this saves on gas.
- ✚ Take a garbage bag along with your picnic bag and place your waste into it.
- ✚ Ensure you have garbage receptacles in your cars or busses for your friends and family to dispose of their garbage.
- ✚ Dispose of garbage in bins provided. However, if the bin is full find ways of disposing of your garbage properly.

### *Vendors/ Party Hosts*

- ✚ Sell your food and beverages in bio-degradable containers and avoid the use of plastic and Styrofoam which do no breakdown in the environment.
- ✚ Have a garbage bin or bag near to your stall for your patrons and encourage them to use it.
- ✚ DJs at the various Easter parties do constantly remind persons engaged in the activity to dispose of their waste properly.

### *During the Kite Flying and Picnicking*

- ✚ Carry your food in reusable containers.
- ✚ Buy large bottles of beverage rather than several small ones - this means less waste and it will cost less.
- ✚ Dispose of damaged or unwanted kites and other food packages in bins or take them home to dispose properly
- ✚ Take along re-useable plastic cups, plates, etc. These are just as convenient, reduce waste and help save cost in a big way as you can save them for another occasion.
- ✚ After picnicking whether at the creek or in a field or park do clean up any mess you may have made.

Do the right thing! Report litterbugs on 600-0620 (anytime) or 225-0506 ext. 295/300 (08:00h-16:30h).

*Litter is unhealthy. Let's try to reduce our waste and dispose of it properly as we celebrate Easter 2015.*

***“The Environment is everybody business”***

***You can share your ideas and questions by sending letters to: “Our Earth, Our Environment”,  
C/O EIT Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Ganges Street, Sophia,  
GEORGETOWN; or email us at [eit.epaguyana@gmail.com](mailto:eit.epaguyana@gmail.com).***