



Greening Your Christmas

The holiday season can be one of the most wasteful times of the year. Some estimates suggest that we throw away 25% more trash during the holiday season than any other time of year. Striving to have a greener holiday season can even save you money while conserving landfill space too.

Some Tips for Reducing Your Waste During the Holidays

1. When you shop bring a canvas bag from home so you don't need a plastic bag for each purchase. If you forget your cloth bag don't take a new bag for every purchase, add new items to the bag/bags that you already have.
2. Think Rechargeable! If you are giving something that requires batteries, why not make rechargeable batteries part of your gift?
3. Use gifts to wrap gifts. Use items such as towels, a scarf or blanket. The 'wrapping' then becomes part of the gift.
4. After Christmas, recycle. Have different bags and containers available when opening the gifts Christmas morning, in order to make sorting easier. Even consider taking some difficult to open toys and gifts out of the package before you wrap it, then it saves frustration on Christmas morning trying to open those impossible packages, plus you can then have the time to sort the material into recyclables. Don't just put it all in the garbage bag!

Catch the Spirit – And That Extra Recycling

With all your recycling efforts over the holidays, you may find that your bins are overflowing. So what should you do? Extra recyclables can be put in any reusable open top container (no clear plastic bags) and put out on the same day as your regular recycling collection. It's also a good idea to check your collection schedule for any changes in your collection day so that you don't miss your pick up.

Do You Know Where it Goes?

Some materials make us think twice before we throw them away. Is it recyclable? Can it be composted? Or is it garbage?

Wooden Clementine Boxes

These wooden crates are not recyclable or compostable. However, they can be reused. They are great on the shelves in your shed to hold small garden tools and work gloves. They could also be handy for storing paint brushes, extension cords or crafting supplies.

Wrapping Paper

Wrapping paper is acceptable with your paper recycling. Remove all ribbons and bows before putting the paper in your recycling box. Foil and metallic wrapping paper is not recyclable, it must go in your regular garbage.

Re-Use It!

Although most of the paper Christmas cards, gift wrap and gift bags we receive are now recyclable, don't forget that they can be reused. Save your Christmas gift bags that you receive this year and store them to reuse for your gifts next year. Also, old Christmas cards can be used to make gift tags or crafts.