

Green Your Holiday!

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, Americans throw away 25% more trash. Here are some simple steps you can take to ensure that the holiday season is not a time of waste, but a time of family, friends, and thanks.

Decorations

- ❖ Buy a living tree that can be planted afterwards.
- ❖ Think local: Buy trees and wreaths that are fresh, local, and pesticide free.
- ❖ The smaller the lights, the lower the wattage; also think about switching to LED decorative lights.

Wrapping Paper

- ❖ Make or buy a cloth gift bag, you can even put card inside where everyone who gives and receives it can sign their name.
- ❖ Use old books, magazines or newspaper to create you own wrapping paper.
- ❖ Get the kids involved by having them decorate paper bags with paint, glitter and stamps.
- ❖ Furoshiki is an easy and attractive way to wrap gifts with reusable cloth.

Holiday Meals

- ❖ Think about cooking holiday meals with local and organic ingredients.
- ❖ Make holiday dishes from seasonal vegetables like potatoes, cabbage and carrots.
- ❖ Even cocktails can be green! Use organic alcohol made in Oregon.

Gifts

- ❖ Look for cards made from recycled paper. Holiday cards with a glossy, shiny or foil front may not be recyclable.
- ❖ Look for gifts with an environmental message or that do not require energy to use.
- ❖ Try giving homemade items like cookies or jam; items that do not create waste like concert tickets, dinner at a restaurant, or a class or workshop; or items that get used up like soap, seeds, or candles.

Just for Kids

- ❖ Instead of wrapping presents, create a scavenger hunt with clues to help the kids to find their presents.
- ❖ Help kids make their own ornaments and gifts by using items found in nature.
- ❖ Old clothes can be a great gift for any dress-up enthusiast.
- ❖ Create gifts that spark their creativity, like tools and art supplies.

Holiday Recycling

- **Ribbons, bows:** can be saved for next year or donated to SCRAPPS Creative Reuse Center (503-294-0769, scrapaction.org). They also accept other items that can be used for crafting like fabric.
- **Computers, monitors, TVs:** Oregon E-cycles (1-800-532-9253, oregonecycles.org) will recycle old electronics for free.
- **Plastic bags and packaging, electronics, rechargeable batteries, athletic shoes:** Farwest Fibers has seven drop-off areas around Portland (503-643-9944).

SE Portland: 4629 SE 17 th Ave.	NE Portland: 12820 NE Marx St.
NW Portland: 1520 NW Quimby St.	Lake Oswego: 341 Foothills Rd.
N Portland: 2005 N Rosa Parks Way	Beaverton: 10750 SW Denney Rd.
Hillsboro: 6440 SE Alexander St.	
- **Cardboard, wrapping paper, cards, envelopes and catalogs** can be recycled at home
- **Trees** can be picked up curbside in Portland! Some trees may cost extra, see METRO for details.

Useful Websites

- [Planet Green](#) has great ideas for DIY gifts and wrapping and more tips on greening the holidays
 - Check out [Tree Hugger](#) to find green gifts for everyone on your list
 - Use Fontana's [Simplify the Holiday Guide](#) for even more gift ideas, as well as tips on rediscovering the meaning of the holiday season
 - If you are interested in Furoshiki here are two useful YouTube videos: This one is [very simple](#) and this one is [a little fancier](#).
- ❖ For more tips and advice on going green or improving sustainability in your neighborhood contact Neighbors West-Northwest Sustainability Intern, Anna Brown sustainability@nwnw.org.