

Have a green holiday.

Tips to keep green this season.



Diversion or Recycling

- According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans dispose of 25 percent more waste between Thanksgiving and the new year than during any other time of the year, amounting to 25 million tons.
- Purchase e-gift cards or gifts made of sustainable sources (i.e. recycled, Fair Trade, organic, local, reuse, made with renewable materials, recyclable).
- Make your own wrapping paper by using old maps, posters or pages from newspapers or magazines.
- Save bags and bows to use again and be sure to recycle the newspapers or brown paper shopping bags after the gift is opened, or use it for padding when shipping gifts.
- Use e-mail for your holiday greetings – it's a great way to share photos, keep in touch more frequently and save paper and postage.
- According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, about 45 percent of all battery sales take place during the holiday season. We recommend purchasing rechargeable batteries instead.
- Avoid purchasing metallic color wrapping papers, for it cannot be recycled. Look for wrapping paper made with recycled content.
- Donate unwanted and/or gently-used gift items to appropriate organizations that accept the items.
- Recharge and re-gift used gift cards to friends/family members/co-workers, and seek retailers that offer gift-card recycling opportunities to customers.
- Compost kitchen waste after holiday meals.

Operational

- Office parties can generate large amounts of waste. Consider using plated entrees and water pitchers rather than buffet liners and single-serve beverage containers to avoid excess waste.

Energy and Water Usage

- Holiday lights are a lovely sight, but only if people are around to see them. Use timers or motion sensors to avoid electricity use during non-business hours.
- Use LED or fluorescent lighting instead of incandescents. Remember, LED lights and other energy efficient lighting can be used for Holiday decorations, too.
- Use smaller light bulbs. The smaller bulbs have a lower wattage, which consume less energy and generate less heat, making your lights safer.