

*Deck the Halls —  
With Less Waste!*



# *Create a Sustainable Holiday Season*

- More waste is created between Thanksgiving and New Year's than any other time
- Massive and easily preventable holiday waste:
  - 25% more during holidays
  - 25 million extra tons of garbage
  - 38,000 miles of ribbon
  - 2.65 billion Christmas cards



Image courtesy of Start [www.startuk.org](http://www.startuk.org)

# *More sustainable choices*

- Make your holidays more sustainable by making simple choices:
  - Decorations
  - Trees
  - Holiday Cards
  - Presents
  - Gift Wrapping
  - Holiday Meals



# *Decorations*

- Christmas lights
  - Use LED to save electricity and \$
  - Use less
  - Use timers
- Purchase decorations from a thrift store
- Donate unwanted decorations to thrift store or local charity



# *Trees*

- Traditionally-cut dead tree isn't so sustainable. Instead:
  - Live tree that can be replanted or used again
  - Tree from a local grower who matures and harvests trees responsibly
  - Rent a tree!
  - Purchase reusable tree from thrift store
  - Be sure to reuse or recycle your tree afterwards



# *Holiday Cards*

- We all like receiving cards, but they generate waste. Consider:
  - Purchasing responsibly made cards with high recycled content
  - Cards that don't open up so they save 50% of the paper
  - Reusing old cards to make gift tags or for crafts
  - Go paperless! Send e-cards.



# Presents

- Ideas for more sustainable gift giving:
  - Shop locally
  - Buy consumable products and services
  - Consider the life of your purchase
  - Purchase a gift that is personalized or fills an actual need
  - Donate unwanted gifts
  - Resist the temptation to buy more
  - Give your time not stuff



# Gift Wrapping

- Disposable shopping bags and wrapping paper are big holiday waste culprits. Instead:
  - Use reusable shopping bags
  - Use wrapping paper that is responsibly made, includes high recycled content. Recycle the paper afterwards
  - Avoid bows and ribbons, use recycled card art, sprigs of live evergreen
  - Reuse newspapers or magazines to make your own wrap
  - Better yet, collect and reuse gift bags, ribbons and bows



Photo courtesy Mother Earth Living

# *Holiday Meals*

- Almost 40% of all food we purchase is wasted. Instead:
  - Follow recipes and estimate to avoid preparing too much food
  - Send home guests with leftovers that you know you're not going to eat
  - Donate excess food to emergency or homeless shelters
  - Use real dishes and cloth napkins



# *Sustainable Holidays*

- Small choices do add up
- Consider making 2 or 3 changes
- Remember, it's not about the stuff
- Enjoy time with family and loved ones
- For more ideas:  
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/publiced/holidays/>



*Earth, the greatest gift of all...*

*Photo courtesy City of Sacramento*