



Think Simply-Green for the Holidays

Did you know...the average consumer wraps 20 gifts during the holidays. If just three of those gifts are wrapped in reused paper, the paper saved could cover 45,000 football fields!



Gift Wrapping: Try using items from around your home to wrap gifts: Scarves, bandannas, old maps, newspapers, pieces of cloth, or decorate re-usable boxes.

Did you know...at least 28 billion pounds of edible food are wasted each year-or over 100 pounds per person. Putting one less cookie on Santa's plate will reduce his snacking by 2 million pounds.



Planning: Plan meals wisely and practice portion control to minimize waste in the first place. After the party, don't throw away the leftovers! Send them home with guests or donate non-perishable items to the local food bank.

Did you know...the 2.65 billion holiday cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high? If we each sent one card less, we'd save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.



Use old cards to make creative placemats and decorations or recycle old holiday cards by sending them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, a home for abused children in Nevada, where children make new cards from old ones and sell them to support the ranch. .

Did you know...the amount of garbage created during the holidays increases by 25 percent. That's an extra 5 million tons of trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's.



Shopping: Bring your own shopping bags or consolidate your purchases into one bag rather than getting a new bag at each store.

Consider the impact of your gift: Purchase presents with minimal packaging waste and extended durability. Will it be reusable? Is it safe for children and the environment?

Celebrate the Holidays differently this year by making simply-green decisions!

For more on how to reduce: <http://www.use-less-stuff.com/ULSDAY/42ways.html>

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/reduce/nowaste.cfm>