

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON -- REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE!

From Thanksgiving to New Year's, household waste increases more than 25%. This extra trash — mostly food, plastic ware, shopping bags, packaging, and wrapping paper — sends an additional 1 million tons of waste a week to landfills. Reduce your holiday trash and save some cash!

TEACHERS' TRAILER – A HOLIDAY RECYCLING RESOURCE

Educators, Craftspeople, Citizens if you are looking for recycled materials for your holiday projects the McKinley Citizens' Recycling Council has a resource center. Contact a MCRC volunteer at the Larry Brian Mitchell Recreation Center on Saturdays from 10 am-2 pm, call 722-9257, or leave a message on the MCRC web site -www.recyclegallup.org Items available include: all sizes of cardboard tubes, cylindrical containers, egg cartons, popsicle and chop sticks, tissue boxes, 2-Liter bottles, boxes and tins of all sizes, and much more!

NEED A SPECIAL GIFT?

MCRC 100% Recycled Cotton Totes are \$10 - Two for \$18!

CHRISTMAS TREES

Live, potted trees are reusable. Plant your tree or leave it potted in your yard to use again next year.

Freshly cut trees are recyclable. Buy a fresh cut tree or cut your own. After the holidays, place it in your backyard for nesting birds, or call 863-1212 for sites where trees can be dropped off, or days City Solid Waste will pick up trees. Trees and other evergreens are mulched for parks and public areas. Residents may obtain these materials for free by calling 863-1275.

Tumbleweed Trees are a creative alternative. Look for them rolling by.

DECORATIONS

Instead of buying decorations take a walk in your neighborhood. Look for berries, dried flowers, weeds, pine cones, and evergreens.

Reuse ornaments or make ornaments from, fabric scraps, old holiday cards, and more. Make snow globes in watertight recycled jars.

RECYCLED KITCHEN & PARTY PRODUCTS

Use cloth instead of paper napkins, if feasible. Cloth napkins can be washed with other laundry. If using paper look for napkins made from recycled paper.

Use Ceramic or Glass Plates & Metal Flatware. If paper is used note wax coated paper cannot be recycled. Look for **biodegradable cutlery and plates, or items that can be washed with a little bleach and used again.**

Use fiber cloths instead of paper towels **for clean up.**

SEND GREEN GREETINGS

After a few weeks most holiday cards will be trashed. **Send electronic greetings** using an online service. Often, you can add photos or a video message.

Buy **cards made from recycled paper.** Those with seeds embedded in the fibers can be planted; the blooming flowers will remind the recipient of your care for the planet.

RECYCLED GIFTS

Gift giving is certainly a holiday tradition, but try to minimize store-bought items by making gifts from recycled materials. Many local craftspeople use recycled materials in their paintings, cards, quilts, candle holders, and more.

Consider Alternative Giving. Make a donation to a charity in someone's honor or memory - (The Community Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Battered Families Services, Gallup Solar, McKinley Citizens' Recycling Council, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, World Wildlife Foundation, etc.)

WRAPPING IT UP

Most wrapping paper is **not** made from recycled paper. Metal fibers and foil CAN NOT be recycled! If you buy wrapping paper, try to purchase papers made from recycled materials or re-use last year's wrappings, old maps, or comic pages.

Fabric and towels make great wrappings and they can be re-purposed. Decorate with a sprig of berries or leaves from Nature's bounty instead of ribbon. ***If every family in the United States wrapped just three presents this way, we'd save enough ribbon to tie a bow around the earth. What a great gift that would be!***

When receiving a gift carefully unwrap to use the paper, ribbon and other decoration another day.

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WHEN YOU SHOP CONSIDER THIS

The easiest way to limit what is thrown away is to reduce the amount you bring home. Packaging makes up 30% of America's trash. Package-free may seem impossible, but cut back on unnecessary packaging. Shop at stores where you can buy unpackaged goods, purchase used items from thrift stores, shop at seasonal arts & craft shows and flea markets.

Be a more caring and responsible citizen of the Earth by Going Green this Season.

For more information on how to Green your holidays check out the *Mother Nature Network* and *The Nature Conservancy*.

For more information on how to recycle in Gallup-McKinley County, to volunteer or to purchase a tote, call 722-5142 or go to www.recyclegallup.org.