

Whitman County's Use Less Stuff Holiday Tips (2008)

Whitman County is trying to bring attention to the fact that waste reduction is to everyone's benefit and is everyone's responsibility.



Did you know that the holiday season alone generates 25 million TONS of trash? That is an EXTRA one MILLION TONS of trash per week. If everyone was conscientious and avoided waste, think of how much trash we would save from our landfills.



Plan Ahead. Making a list early will save time, money and last minute shopping frenzies. And consolidate your shopping trips. Spending fewer hours driving to malls and shopping centers means less wasted gas, time and stress



When wrapping gifts use old comic strips, paper sacks or children's art work. These too can be recycled after the gifts are opened. Old outdated maps.



Buy lights that are wired in parallel. If one goes bad the others still work.



Consider buying a potted Norfolk pine, fig tree or indoor house plant that can be used every holiday season as your evergreen tree.



Use trimmed branches from your tree for decorating around the home or making wreaths.



Decorate evergreen bushes or pine trees outside a window with removal, reusable decorations.



Cut off the front of old holiday cards and make gift tags, or post cards.



Buy rechargeable batteries for toys, and other electronic items that are used frequently.

GIFT IDEAS



Memberships to a museum or nonprofit organization



Theater tickets



Free baby-sitting service



Diaper service for a month to new parents



Energy-saving fluorescent light fixtures or bulbs



Reusable coffee mug



Gourmet dinner for busy couple



Stationary –made from recycled paper, stamps



Shutoff –timer for watering the lawn



Bird Feeder and Seed



Automatic thermostat control device

PARTY WASTE REDUCTION TIPS



Use reusable tableware



Cut up last year's holiday cards and use as place cards



Use outdated calendars to make an unusual and unique New Years tablecloth



Place easily identifiable recycling containers at your celebration so guests can recycle their pop cans, bottles, etc. Use reusable glasses and fill from large containers.



Point out to your guests the way your party demonstrates waste reduction and recycling and **SPREAD THE WORD**

GREEN RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR Use only cloth napkins

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR Install water-savings devices in your toilet and shower

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR Walk or bicycle at least one car errand weekly

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR Use a reusable coffee cup at work

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR Turn down the thermostat at night

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR Turn off the water while you brush your teeth

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR Reduce the use of pesticides and other hazardous household chemicals

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR Use biodegradable laundry soap

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR COMPOST

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR BUY Recycled Products!