



Trim Your Holiday Wasteline

Help trim the trash while trimming the tree

November Council Green Tip



From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, household waste increases by more than 25%

Extra food waste

+ shopping bags

+ packaging

+ wrapping paper

+ bows & ribbons

= 1 million additional tons of trash
each week to our landfills (US EPA)



Shopping

- Use your own shopping bags & consolidate purchases into one bag
- If you shop by catalog, remember to cancel catalogs you don't need so they don't end up as waste
- Shop early & consolidate trips to save fuel
- Walk & use public transportation

*If each family reduced holiday gasoline consumption by 1 gallon, we'd reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1 million tons.
(Use Less Stuff, 1998)*



Gift Wrap

Get creative when wrapping gifts this year

- Reuse old ribbons & wrapping paper
- Make the wrapping part of the gift

Need to buy wrapping paper?

- Purchase chlorine-free, recycled-content paper
- Non-metallic wrapping paper & tissue paper are recyclable

If every family reused just 2 feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.

Gift Giving

- “Give Experiences Instead of Stuff” – Waste Free Holidays program
 - Over 150 businesses in King County offer discounts on music, plays, sporting events, & more
 - Check out www.wastefreeholidays.com
- Give something that you’ve made yourself
- Give durable & long-lasting items instead of disposable items
- Give a charitable donation in someone’s name

70% of Americans would welcome less emphasis on gift giving & spending. (Center for the New American Dream)





Cleaning Up

- Save what you can for reuse & recycle what you can't reuse
- Compost food scraps that aren't eaten (turkey carcass & all!)
- Donate unwanted gifts, along with last year's gifts that the kids have outgrown, to charity



Happy (Waste-free) Holidays!