Holiday Recycling

Tips for Merry Recycling and a Green New Year!

Reduce

* LED lights use less electricity. For more savings and less work, put all lights on a timer.
* Digital cameras do not need film and do not require printing.
* Carpool to parties. Plan all your trips to save gas.
* Email cards and pare down your mailing lists.

Reuse

* Reuse shipping boxes. Bring popcorn to shipping centers.
* Bring your cloth bags when shopping for groceries and gifts.
* Use rechargeable batteries.
* Donate old usable items when you receive new ones.
* Use real dishes and utensils. Use cloth napkins instead of paper.

Recycle

* Recycle wrapping paper, empty boxes, and food containers.
* Compost food waste.
* Recycle your Christmas tree.
* Recycle holiday lights at any County e-waste collection event.
* Recycle ads and catalogs. Make gift tags from old greeting cards.
* Batteries cannot be thrown in the trash in California. They must be recycled. Click here for details.

Even turned off, some electronic devices use a lot of energy, especially those with an adaptor. Unplug them, or plug them into a power strip that can be turned off, and watch your savings go up!

Give Green

- Make a donation in a loved one's name. Save an acre of rain forest, adopt a zoo animal, give to a school scholarship fund.
- Give event tickets. Memories last longer.
- Gift cards let them buy what they really want!
- Buy quality gifts which will last longer.
- Give the "new" green: battery chargers, LED lights, items made with recycled content.
- Pass on family or childhood treasures.
- Give new life to old treasures from thrift stores.
- Buy items made by local manufacturers.
- Wrap gifts with holiday fabric, gift bags, fancy boxes, blueprints, maps, or comics. Make wrapping a part of the gift - a toolbox, hat box, tablecloth, or basket.
- Make gift tags from old cards.

Real or artificial? Both trees have their benefits. Get a little advice from the National Gardening Association to make an informed decision.

Having an office party? Great opportunity to be green! At last year's Public Works lunch, 45 working cell phones were collected for the Department of Aging's **911 Free Safety Cell Phone Program.** Donors received an extra raffle ticket for each recycled phone.

Have you made a Green resolution?

Find more information about the REACON Green Business Assessment at www.GreenTeamSanJoaquin.com

CALL FOR ACTION: We need your help! Sub-committees have been formed for website, communication, goals, and electronics/technology. Bring ideas and/or talents. If interested, email David Louis at dlouis@sjgov.org.