

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Christmas with a Conscience

The holidays can be a wonderful time of giving, but can also lead to over consumption and wastefulness. This holiday season, make responsible choices as you give gifts and plan for holiday parties. The following waste reduction tips can make a huge difference in the amount of trash generated between Thanksgiving and Christmas each year.

Green Gift Giving: Consider making homemade gifts such as cookies or candies. You can also save energy and resources by reusing materials in craft projects. Remember, not all gifts have to 'be' something. Gifts that create no waste such as massage and movie or event tickets are always appreciated. Before making gift purchases, ask yourself a few simple questions. How long will this item last? Will it need maintenance or end up in a landfill? If possible, purchase items with recycled content.

Minimize waste when wrapping: Consumers often get caught up in special packaging and wrapping that ends up being a large part of the waste stream. Make an effort to purchase products with minimal packaging and be creative when wrapping gifts. Reuse paper such as wrapping paper, newspaper comic strips, outdated maps or telephone book pages. Create your own decorative gift bag by decorating a reused brown paper bag, or use cloth and fabric to wrap that special item. Remember, regular wrapping paper is recyclable if it's not foil or plastic coated.

Reduce, reuse, recycle: As you revel in the bounty of your Christmas loot remember to donate the items being replaced to local thrift stores or to individuals in need for reuse.

Save a tree: A live tree can be lovely indoors during the holidays and when planted afterwards will continue to grow for many years into the future. If a live tree is not an option, use an artificial one and/or be sure to bring your cut tree to a greenwaste collection site after the holidays so it can be ground into mulch instead of taking it to the dump. All ornaments and tinsel should be removed prior to drop off. No flocking allowed. Trees can be recycled at the following locations:

Arcata:

Mad River Compost 6360 West End Rd. Free for Arcata residents/businesses with Arcata Waste Diversion receipt or Green Waste Drop-off Card. All others pay \$3.00 for small trees and \$5.00 for larger trees. 822-8035

Eureka:

Eureka Community Recycling Center 1059 W. Hawthorne Street; no charge before January 14, **City Garbage** 442-5711 \$5 for curbside pick-up on January 6 & 13, **Eureka High Music Boosters Club** 444-9043 \$5 donation for curbside pick-up on December 30 or January 6.

Ferndale:

City Barn on Francis St. before Sunday, January 7. Curbside available by 9:00am January 7 for Ferndale High's "S" Club volunteers to pick-up.

Fortuna:

Eel River Disposal 965 Riverwalk Dr; no charge before Sunday, January 14.

McKinleyville:

Humboldt Sanitation 2585 Central Ave; no charge before January 14.

Rio Dell:

Pacific Lumber greenwaste site in Scotia, 1st right past fire hall, open 7-days a week 8:00am to 6:00pm

Trinidad:

Dropoff located behind **Murphy's Market** before January 14.

Waste reduction not only helps to reduce garbage bills but also saves energy and natural resources. Visit www.greengiftguide.com for tips on reducing waste during the holiday season as well as great 'green' gift ideas. For more information about any of these reuse or recycling options, call the Humboldt County Waste Reduction Hotline at 268-8030.