

Less Waste Holiday Guide

Did you know that Americans create 25% more trash during the holidays? We want to help you reduce your waste and turn up the cheer this season with tips that allow your household to use less energy, resources, and reduce GHG emissions to make for a happy planet all year round!

Reduce

Consider giving a gift of an experience, subscription or make a donation in their name rather than more "stuff."



Carefully plan your trip to the grocery store to prevent surplus and make a food scrap diversion plan before hosting.

- Before you buy new decorations, look into options to **rent holiday decor** or reusable party supplies or **check out a local thrift shop!**
- For your family's holiday dinner, make a **detailed grocery list before going shopping** to take into account how many people you will be feeding to **prevent purchasing excess**. Make a **plan to divert food scraps from the landfill**.
- Instead of using disposables for your holiday meal, serve on **real dishware**. Use **containers or jars** for saving leftover food to prevent the use of plastic ziplock bags.

Reuse

- Use **brown bags, comics from the newspaper or recycled fabric to wrap gifts** or **reuse bags** from previous holidays instead of purchasing wrapping paper.
- Opt for **natural decor such as berries, citrus, pine cones, cinnamon sticks or natural foliage** instead of buying plastic decorations. If you do buy, invest in good quality **decorations that can be used year after year**.
- **Gift forward** or visit your local second hand shop for unique finds. Select gifts that can be reused and cherished for a long time. When in doubt, items such as stainless steel water bottles or sustainable home products are always a great option
- **Christmas lights cannot be put in the curbside recycling bin** but can be taken to an e-waste collection such as the Solana Center! Invest in **LED lights which consume 80% less energy** and last up to 25 times longer.
- Wrapping paper, cards or gift tags that have **glitter, metallic, or ribbon cannot be recycled**, but packaging made of only paper can. Sort out soft plastics (such as bags and wrapping) and take to a collection site. Find a site at plasticfilmrecycling.org.
- Take home a Food Cycle bucket from Solana Center to **recycle your food scraps into valuable compost** through their community compost program.

Decorate with natural or second hand materials.



Make gatherings zero waste with dishware, glasses and use jars or containers instead of ziplocks for leftovers.

Recycle

Take old Christmas lights to an e-waste collection site. Don't put them in your curbside recycling bin.



Wrapping paper, cards or gift tags that have glitter or metallic elements cannot go in the recycling bin. Opt for natural paper, fabric or newspaper comics as wrapping and save ribbons, bows and bags to reuse!



Remove garland, lights, and other decor before putting your tree in the EDCO green waste curbside bin.

