

## Facts on Holiday Waste

- From Thanksgiving to New Years Day, household waste increases by more than 25%. Added food waste, shopping bags, packaging, wrapping paper, bows and ribbons - it all adds up to an additional 1 million tons a week to our landfills.
- In the U.S., annual trash from gift-wrap and shopping bags totals 4 million tons.

### Cards

- The 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high. If we each sent one card less, we'd save 50,000 cubic yards of paper. Consider sending an electronic card. The following are some examples of what is available on the internet:

<http://www.americangreetings.com/>

<http://www.Hallmark.com/>

<http://www.ecards.com/>

### Ribbons

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

### Food

- At least 28 billion pounds of edible food are wasted each year - or over 100 pounds per person.

### Paper

- Half of the paper America consumes is used to wrap and decorate consumer products.

### Christmas Trees

- Each year, 50 million Christmas trees are purchased in the U.S. Of those, about 30 million go to the landfill.

### Gifts

- The average American spends \$800 on gifts over the holiday season.
- According to a national survey, 70% of Americans would welcome less emphasis on gift giving and spending.
- About 40% of all battery sales occur during the holiday season.

### Transportation

- If each family reduced holiday gasoline consumption by one gallon (about twenty miles) we'd reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one million tons