



TIPS FOR A WASTE-FREE HOLIDAY SEASON

With the holiday season upon us, the City of Bryan is encouraging Texans to do their part to ensure family celebrations and gift-giving are safe, happy, and environmentally conscious.

Here are some simple steps that will help reduce waste, conserve water and energy, and help you “Be Green in Bryan” during the holiday season.

HOLIDAY PARTY GUIDE

- * When purchasing food items, look for recyclable containers accepted at the City’s Drive-in Recycle Center (2200 Briarcrest Drive—Located in the Super Wal-Mart parking lot)
- * When preparing food, compost leftover food scraps (other than meat and dairy).
- * Recycle left-over oil and grease at the City’s free used oil and grease drop-off center; never pour them down the drain. (Drop-Off Center located at 1111 Waco Drive)
- * Turn down the heat before guests arrive since the extra body heat warms up the room.
- * Walk to neighborhood parties or carpool with friends and family.
- * Use cloth napkins and reusable dishes, glasses, and silverware.
- * After the party, don’t throw away the leftovers. Put them in reusable containers and send them home with guests or donate them to a local meal kitchen.

WRAPPING PAPER, GIFT BAGS, AND CARDS

- * Wrap gifts in recycled or reused paper or gift bags.
- * Remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper and gift bags.
- * Give gifts that don’t require much packaging, such as concert tickets, gasoline cards, gift cards, or gift certificates.
- * Send recycled-content greeting cards to reduce the amount of virgin paper used during the holidays.
- * To reduce paper waste, send electronic greeting cards.

BATTERIES AND ELECTRICITY

- * Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Recycle old batteries and electronics at the bi-annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection.
- * Incredibly efficient strings of LED holiday lights are now available at most large retailers. These lights use only 0.04 watts per bulb, one-tenth the energy of standard mini-lights and 11/100th the energy of C-7, four-watt bulbs and could save you \$30 on your electric bill over the holiday season.
- * Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day and when you go to bed, or set all your lights on timers. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help your lights last longer.
- * Save energy while you’re away for the holidays by leaving your home thermostat turned down.

TREES

- * The EPA reports that approximately 33 million non-artificial Christmas trees are sold in North America every year. After the holidays, recycle your tree with the City of Bryan. The mulch will be used to make compost!
- * To help prevent waste created by cutting down and disposing of live trees, consider buying a potted tree and planting it after the holidays.

Make your number one resolution in 2009 to Be Green in Bryan! To find additional tips to help you save money and the environment all year long, visit www.begreeninbryan.com