

**DECEMBER**  
**GREEN TEAM TEACHER RESOURCE REFERENCE**  
*Strategies to cut down on holiday waste*

**Season's Green'ings from the Green Team**

**GIFT IDEAS**

Choose gifts that support reuse. Visit antique shops and consignment stores for unique, one-of-a-kind items for a special gift.

**Give a gift of your time or talent**

Babysitting, pet sitting, dog walking  
Teach a special skill that you have to someone else  
Musical performance  
Cooking a special meal or treat  
Cleaning

**WRAPPING IDEAS**

Look around the house for alternative uses to traditional wrapping paper.

Old posters  
Sheet music  
Fabric remnants/scarves  
Wallpaper scraps  
Maps  
Scarves  
Telephone book pages  
Old holiday cards make great gift tags

**FACTS**

1. If each family reused just 2 feet of holiday ribbon each year, 38,000 miles worth would be saved - enough to tie a bow around the entire planet.
2. Regular and glossy wrapping paper can be recycled; foil wrap and metallic tape cannot be recycled.
3. 25% more trash is generated between Thanksgiving and New Year's than any other time of year.
4. Giftwrap and shopping bags total 4 million tons in our landfills each holiday season
5. Styrofoam peanuts will remain in landfills for 500 years.
6. Approximately 30-35 million real Christmas trees are sold each year.

**Suggested Discussion Ideas**

**What are some of your ideas for reducing holiday waste?**

1. Save this year's wrapping paper and bows to be reused
2. Collect this year's Christmas cards to create cards or gift tags for next year.
3. Make personalized coupons for gifts.
4. Share a special experience (go to a show, play or take a class) with someone instead of giving a gift.
5. Recycle your live Christmas tree

**Websites:**

<http://www.swancc.org/education/efmp/ecofriendlymarketplace.html>  
[http://www.eartheasy.com/gift\\_wrapping.htm](http://www.eartheasy.com/gift_wrapping.htm)  
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/reduce/nowaste.cfm>