

Kansas Green Teams

Friday Facts

www.Kansasgreenteams.org



Eco Friendly Holidays

The approaching holiday season is a time to celebrate with family and friends. It is also a time when our behaviors can put a strain on the environment. But we can make our celebrations more eco-friendly, and probably save some money as well, by following the ideas listed below. Perhaps you can think of other ways to minimize the environmental impacts of holiday celebrations. Let us know your other ideas by sending an e-mail message to sbarnett@kdheks.gov.

1. Turn off lights, computers, printers and other electronic devices, unplugging them from the wall when leaving your home or work place for the holiday.
2. To reduce waste, only buy what you need or expect to consume, especially foods for snacks and meals.
3. When shopping, choose products that do not have unnecessary or complicated mixed material packaging which can make recycling difficult.
4. Buy local and carry reusable bags. If you forget to bring your bag, don't sweat it, you can now purchase reusable bags at your local stores. Keep the extras in your vehicle for your next visit to the store.
5. Use decorations that can be reused or go for the natural look with popcorn, holly, evergreens and left over ribbons.
6. For your lighting needs, try LED lighting. [LED lamps](#) are rated for 50,000 hours of use or more while standard incandescent lights typically last for only 2,000 hours. [HolidayLEDS.com](#) now has a [recycling program](#) for your old incandescent lights. Check out their website for more details.
7. When choosing your Christmas tree, why not buy a potted tree that can be planted outdoors. If this is not an option, be sure and recycle your tree.
8. Instead of sending out paper Christmas cards or newsletters, send electronic [e-cards](#). If mailing is your only option, send a 100%recycled greeting card
9. Reuse or make your own wrapping paper from newspapers, magazines, fabric or paper bags. Try making gift tags from old greeting cards. Save boxes, tissue and paper and reuse for other special occasions.
10. As you share the holidays with family and friends, be sure and use a digital camera for those special moments, and send the photos that you love by email.

Make a resolution to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as you can. Start by checking with your recycler or check at www.KansasRecycles.org for new items that you were not aware can now be recycled. Complete the recycling loop and buy recycled products. Plan trips to your recycling facility around trips such as shopping. This will help to minimize environmental impacts and save you time.



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