

Rez Recycler

Happy
Holidays!



December 2008

How You Can Reuse & Recycle Wrapping Paper and Cards Easy Ways to Reduce your Holiday Waste

Over the holidays the biggest source of extra waste is the use of wrapping paper and cards that package Christmas gifts. On average, over 8000 tons of wrapping paper and almost two billion cards are thrown out throughout the season. By simply reusing or recycling your wrapping paper and cards you will be able to help reduce the over 300,000 tons of holiday garbage created each year.

It is incredibly easy to reuse your Christmas gift wrap: simply unwrap your gifts carefully so that you can wrap another present in the same paper. Some papers are more durable than others but you can usually use a single piece for two or three presents.



There are a number of other ways you can reuse your Christmas gift wrap besides using it for other gifts:

- Cut the paper into strips and let your kids make slinky springtime creatures from it. They can fold two strips together by putting one edge over the other until they make an accordion shape. Paste a small round piece of paper on the front of the folded paper for a face.

- Make a Christmas platter. Cut shapes out of the Christmas gift wrap and glue them to a platter covered in rice paper. Apply two coats of clear finish to make the platter washable.

- Use the paper as holiday stationary or fold the paper into an envelope for your Christmas cards and notes.

- Cut shapes out of the paper and hang them as Christmas tree decorations. You can even fold the paper and cut it out to make a chain of snowflakes or gingerbread men or cut it into strips and link them together for garland.

- Fold a bow for your gifts out of old wrapping paper.

If you are unable to reuse your Christmas gift wrap in any way, make sure you recycle it. You can also purchase recycled paper. This will keep the paper away from the landfills.

Like wrapping paper, there are a number of uses for old Christmas cards. The easiest way to reuse a card is to cut the card in half and use the front picture as a Christmas postcard.



Use newspaper to wrap presents



Reuse & Recycle old Christmas cards

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What Christmas Means for the Planet

If we don't watch our consumption over the holidays, it can mean real consequences for the environment. Recycling is the best way to show your environmentally friendly Christmas spirit.

Without recycling, up to one billion Christmas cards and as much as 83 square kilometers of wrapping paper could end up in landfills

Excessive consumption will kill the planet. It is estimated that the pollution from the manufacturing, transportation, use and disposal of Christmas gifts is greater than that caused by automobiles each year

Christmas lights left on for ten hours a day over only twelve days will produce enough carbon dioxide to inflate 12 balloons.





Global warming, or climate change, is a subject that shows no sign of cooling down

Here's the lowdown on why it's happening, what's causing it, and how it might change the planet.

Is It Happening?

Yes. Earth is already showing many signs of worldwide climate change.

- Average temperatures have climbed 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit (0.8 degree Celsius) around the world since 1880, much of this in recent decades, according to NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.
- The rate of warming is increasing. The 20th century's last two decades were the hottest in 400 years and possibly the warmest for several millennia, according to a number of climate studies. And the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that 11 of the past 12 years are among the dozen warmest since 1850.
- The Arctic is feeling the effects the most. Average temperatures in Alaska, western Canada, and eastern Russia have risen at twice the global average, according to the multinational Arctic Climate Impact Assessment report compiled between 2000 and 2004.
- Arctic ice is rapidly disappearing, and the region may have its first completely ice-free summer by 2040 or earlier. Polar bears and indigenous cultures are already suffering from the sea-ice loss.
- Glaciers and mountain snows are rapidly melting—for example, Montana's Glacier National Park now has only 27 glaciers, versus 150 in 1910. In the Northern Hemisphere, thaws also come a week earlier in spring and freezes begin a week later.
- Coral reefs, which are highly sensitive to small changes in water temperature, suffered the worst bleaching—or die-off in response to stress—ever recorded in 1998, with some areas seeing bleach rates of 70 percent. Experts expect these sorts of events to increase in frequency and intensity in the next 50 years as sea temperatures rise.
- An upsurge in the amount of extreme weather events, such as wildfires, heat waves, and strong tropical storms, is also attributed in part to climate change by some experts.

Are Humans Causing It?

The report, based on the work of some 2,500 scientists in more than 130 countries, concluded that humans have caused all or most of the current planetary warming. Human-caused global warming is often called anthropogenic climate change.

- Industrialization, deforestation, and pollution have greatly increased atmospheric concentrations of water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, all greenhouse gases that help trap heat near Earth's surface.
- Humans are pouring carbon dioxide into the atmosphere much faster than plants and oceans can absorb it.
- These gases persist in the atmosphere for years, meaning that even if such emissions were eliminated today, it would not immediately stop global warming.
- Some experts point out that natural cycles in Earth's orbit can alter the planet's exposure to sunlight, which may explain the current trend. Earth has indeed experienced warming and cooling cycles roughly every hundred thousand years due to these orbital shifts, but such changes have occurred over the span of several centuries. Today's changes have taken place over the past hundred years or less.
- Other recent research has suggested that the effects of variations in the sun's output are "negligible" as a factor in warming, but other, more complicated solar mechanisms could possibly play a role.

“Arctic ice is rapidly disappearing, and the region may have its first completely ice-free summer by 2040 or earlier”



Effects of global warming

The following article comes from:

[National Geographic News
http://
news.nationalgeographic.com/
news/2004/12/1206_041206_glo
bal_warming.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2004/12/1206_041206_global_warming.html)

Updated June 14, 2007

Environmental Hero

Robbie Lange has been selected as a 2008 Environmental Hero. Robbie is an employee of the Division of Construction and Building Maintenance. In the course of performing his duties, Robbie has recognized the need to change and improve our office practices. He has taken the initiative to make connections with employees and talk openly about reducing waste and increasing recycling efforts. He has proposed some innovative waste reduction ideas for the Tribal government op-

erations that are set to be implemented in early 2009.

Robbie is also a volunteer for the Earth Day Committee. In April 2008, he organized the first Soap Box Derby event for the annual Earth Day celebration. All participating derby cars were constructed from recycled materials. The unique event was extremely popular with all. We recognize and appreciate Robbie's many efforts and he is our Environmental Hero!



**Robbie Lange
Environmental Hero**



Tap or Bottled—What's the Difference?

No doubt you have heard the recent controversy over bottled water. Does the discussion leave you tapped out? It's hard to know what to believe these days, isn't it? We try to do what's best for our family's health, and a few years down the road, we hear that our efforts may have been in vain.

For years, environmental groups have been crying in the wilderness that bottled water is not any safer than tap water, and in many cases actually is tap! Regardless, the bottled water craze took off and took off in a big way! But recently, everyone seems to have discovered that tap water can be perfectly drinkable – and that bottled water has problems of its own.

For many of the new converts, using tap water as drinking water has two chief advantages.

Tap water doesn't leave a flood of non biodegradable and rarely recycled containers behind.

Tap water doesn't require the manufacture of plastic containers from non renewable petroleum.

For other supporters, the fact that tap water usually flows to us through an energy efficient infrastructure has great appeal. No trucks or ships are required, cutting mass amounts of potential emissions.

Major population centers are already drained of landfill space. They don't need the additional strain placed by millions of plastic drinking water bottles. Neither can we tolerate the unnecessary contribution to global warming that transporting the water to market makes – and many bottled waters are shipped to us from great distances.

The Key is Safety!

The main reason to prefer tap water as your drinking water, in the end, may ironically, be safety – yes, safety! It's not because tap water is inherently purer, but because it is better regulated. This is the key point. Tap water is subject to higher safety standards and better monitoring than bottled water. Tap water is also regulated more consistently. Environmental Protection Agency rules apply to every public water system in the nation.

“Using tap water has two chief advantages... doesn't leave non biodegradable containers behind and doesn't require the manufacture of plastic containers from a non renewable petroleum.”



If you would like more information, please contact www.healthy-kids-go-green.com.

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Christmas card wreath

We're on the web!

www.pbpindiantribe.com/epa.aspx

GLOBAL WARMING - Tips to Reduce Your Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Change 5 lights- Change a light, and you help change the world. Replace the conventional bulbs in your 5 most frequently used light fixtures with bulbs that have the ENERGY STAR and you will help the environment while saving money on energy bills. If every household in the U.S. took this one simple action we would prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from nearly 10 million cars.

Look for ENERGY STAR qualified products- Look for ENERGY STAR qualified products in more than 50 product categories, including lighting, home electronics, heating and cooling equipment and appliances.

Heat and cool smartly- Simple steps like cleaning air filters regularly and having your heating and cooling equipment tuned annually by a licensed contractor can save energy and increase comfort at home, and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions. When it's time to replace your old equipment, choose a high efficiency model, and make sure it is properly sized and installed.

Seal and insulate your home- Sealing air leaks and adding more insulation to your home is a great do-it-yourself project. The biggest leaks are usually found in the attic and basement. If you are planning to replace windows, choose ENERGY STAR qualified windows for better performance. Forced air ducts that run through unconditioned spaces are often big energy wasters. Seal and insulate any ducts in attics and crawlspaces to improve the efficiency of your home. Not sure where to begin? A home energy auditor can also help you find air leaks, areas with poor insulation, and evaluate the over-all energy efficiency of your home. By taking these steps, you can eliminate drafts, keep your

home more comfortable year round, save energy that would otherwise be wasted, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle- If there is a recycling program in your community, recycle your newspapers, beverage containers, paper and other goods. Use products in containers that can be recycled and items that can be repaired or reused. In addition, support recycling markets by buying products made from recycled materials. Reducing, reusing, and recycling in your home helps conserve energy and reduces pollution and greenhouse gases from resource extraction, manufacturing, and disposal.

Use water efficiently- Saving water around the home is simple. Municipal water systems require a lot of energy to purify and distribute water to households, and saving water, especially hot water, can lower greenhouse gas emissions. Look for products with EPA's WaterSense label; these products save water and perform as well or better than their less efficient counterparts. There are also simple actions you can take to save water: Be smart when irrigating your lawn or landscape; only water when needed and do it during the coolest part of the day, early morning is best. Turn the water off while shaving or brushing teeth. Do not use your toilet as a waste basket - water is wasted with each flush. And did you know a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day? Repair all toilet and faucet leaks right away. See EPA's Watersense site for more water saving tips.

Spread the Word- Tell family and friends that energy efficiency is good for their homes and good for the environment because it lowers greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Tell 5 people and together we can help our homes help us all.

From U.S. EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/index.html>