



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Let's Go "Green" for the Holidays

Northern Virginia officials encourage residents to "think green" and keep reuse and recycling at the top of their list when shopping and enjoying the holidays. The Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the Northern Virginia Waste Board have made their own list of "green holiday" ideas.

Gift ideas that won't add to the waste stream:

- Gifts of experience, such as offering to teach a hobby, skill or craft or provide a service.
- Tickets for activities, events, and performances.
- Gifts of food stored in reusable or recyclable containers or wrapped in fabric instead of paper or decorated with bows only.
- Gifts which are durable and come with less packaging.
- Gifts, paper, and cards made with recycled content.
- Reuse gifts from thrift or second-hand shops.

When shopping for a tree:

- Purchase a live tree and later plant it in your yard.
- Recycle discarded trees; local governments recycle trees into mulch.
- Consider decorating a large tropical houseplant instead of purchasing a holiday tree.
- Purchase LED lights for your tree or home; they use less energy and look just as festive.

Other holiday recycling ideas:

- Recycle catalogs, holiday cards and envelopes.
- Donate unwanted toys and household items to charity organizations, instead of placing them in the trash.
- Donate unwanted magazines to medical offices' waiting rooms and gyms for patrons to enjoy.

If purchasing electronics:

- Properly dispose of old electronics; consider retailers and manufacturers that provide this service. Mygreenelectronics.org offers more tips and listings. Local jurisdictions also offer electronics recycling events.

- Include rechargeable batteries instead of single-use batteries with electronic gifts.

For more information and ideas, contact a local government or Debbie Spiliotopoulos, Environmental Planner at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, 703.642.4631.

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