

Holiday Waste
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For Immediate Release

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Subject:

Holiday Waste Reduction

Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Christmas and New Year's Holiday period than any other time of the year. The extra waste amounts to about 1 million extra tons per week. In fact, 38,000 miles of ribbon alone is thrown out each year, enough to tie a bow around the Earth.

With the trash increase the Manitowoc County Material Recovery Facility's (MRF) production increases. Residents can help the MRF be more productive during the sorting process by following recycling guidelines. Do not recycle foil wrapped paper, cellophane wrapping, ribbons, or bows. Also, make sure boxes are emptied of non-recyclable packing materials like Styrofoam inserts, plastics and bubble wrap. Do not place film plastics, non-bottle plastics or #3 through #7 containers in your recycling bin. For questions call 683-4333, or visit www.manitowocrecycles.org.

The MRF is committed to assisting residents and businesses in Manitowoc County with their recycling efforts. Along with recycling information the MRF promotes reducing and reusing. The following is a list of ideas and suggestions that reduce solid waste during the holidays.

Give Green: Purchase rechargeable batteries. About 40% of all batteries are purchased during the holiday season.

Send recycled-content greeting cards to reduce the amount of virgin paper used during the holidays. Remember to recycle any paper cards you receive. You can also try sending electronic greeting cards to reduce paper waste.

Make your own gifts.

Give nonmaterial gifts; gift certificates, tickets to events, performances, movies, charitable contributions.

Consider the durability of a product before you buy it as a gift. Cheaper, less durable items often wear out quickly.

Don't forget to BYOB (Bring your own Bag) while shopping. Thousands of paper and plastic shopping bags end up in landfills every year. Reduce the number of bags thrown out by bringing reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping. Tell store clerks you don't need a bag for small or oversized purchases.

Wrap Green:

Oversized gifts; include a big bow, or hide it and have clue cards creating a treasure hunt. Use a knit hat, put gift in and close hat with a barrette or hat pin. A back pack, a pillow case, or a pretty towel makes unique wrappings.

Creative gift wrapping; Sunday comics, sports section, shopping bags-decorate with crayons, markers, paints.

Buy recycled gift wrap.

Look for cards that contain recycled content or are actually recycled materials.

Use old cards as name tags for presents or for colorful artwork to decorate your house. Set a box aside to collect reusable paper, ribbons, and bows. Flatten and reuse gift boxes.

Party Green:

Avoid disposables when entertaining. If paper products are needed, buy recycled products.

Don't over bake. Give leftover foods to guests or pantries.

Stay Green

During this holiday season start a year round tradition of reducing, reusing and recycling. Every effort makes a difference.

Watch for news from the local recycling center like Holiday Tree Recycling in late in December.

Visit www.manitowocrecycles.org for more information on your local recycling program.