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Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ways To Reuse During the Holiday Season

During the holidays, many of us are mindful of giving gifts and treats and celebrating with people near and far. It may happen during the weeks of holiday excitement that we forget about the large amount of waste generated. According to the US EPA, between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, American household waste increases by more than 25 percent. Trash cans will be filled with food scraps and leftovers, gift packaging including bags and boxes, gift wrapping, bows and ribbons, and unwanted toys and clothing replaced by the new gifts. Practice reducing waste this holiday season by implementing the tips below.

Gifting

1. When shopping to decorate for holiday celebrations, share a meal and give gifts, unnecessary plastic bags and packaging can accumulate. Please recycle and try to buy items with little to no packaging.
2. Plan your shopping trips with reusable bags to avoid a large pile of plastic packaging.
3. Instead of buying brand new items, the perfect gift can be found at your local resale store, Goodwill or vintage shop.
4. The best gifts are the ones made from the heart with your own hands using old, unused or scrap items. Use the term "*one man's trash is another's treasure.*"
 - Take items from around the house to repurpose them into something new.
 - Gather packaging or ingredients to make a kit for holiday cookies, dips, drinks or other food for a holiday table.
 - Freshen up or distress a worn item like an old piece of furniture as a gift for the home.

- Re-gift the item you received last Christmas that you have not used yet. It can be given to another who will use it or as a white elephant gift. A gift given to the right person, should be treasured like the intention of gift giving.

Create Space and Donate After the Holidays

1. Once you start putting the gifts and decorations away, it's a great opportunity to reorganize and open up space in your home, closets and storage areas.
2. Wash an old sweater, a pair of slacks or jeans or a tie and place in the donation pile when you reorganize the closet.
3. Examine your holiday dishware and decorations and determine what can be kept for another season. Give to kids starting new households or donate what you no longer want. This is an easy way to declutter your home and give to others at the same time.

When donating items, make sure clothing, toys, furniture, etc. are clean and in good condition. Many charitable organizations may not have a way to clean items before they are given out. Call the organization, if you think an item is too damaged or soiled.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

1. When the celebrations are over, recycle as much as you can to create less waste. Review the District's Naughty and Nice Recycling List before tossing items into a recycling container. Not everything this holiday season is recyclable. For example, recyclers do not want the foam and film packaging with your empty cardboard box.
2. Use your tree as a bird habitat instead of throwing it in a landfill or chip as mulch.
3. Compost your live Christmas Tree as a best practice. Several communities provide residents the opportunity to "recycle" their live trees or find a composting facility.
4. Plastic bags and certain plastic films can be recycled at drop-off locations.

The Naughty and Nice and Christmas tree list are available on RecycleOSS homepage and use search function for the closest compost facility.

To learn more about recycling and 2020 event schedule (to be released soon), add RecycleOSS.org to your favorite menu. Like us on Facebook: *Ottawa Sandusky Seneca Green Recycling Scene*. Follow Twitter: OSS Solid Waste @Aim2BGreen. Call the District's main office at 419-334-7222 or 1-888-850-7224.