



The Waste Paper

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION ON RECYCLING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Recycled Paper for the Holidays: Cards, Gift Wrap & More

Seasons Greetings! Did you know that between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, household waste increases by 25%? Much of that waste is paper from gift wrapping, cards and present packaging.

For less wasteful products, consider items from the following companies:

Peaceful Valley Greetings

From wrapping paper made with natural materials, such as kenaf and hemp, to 2007 calendars printed on recycled paper, Peaceful Valley Greetings offers many earth-friendly options for the holidays.

www.peacefulvalleygreetings.com

Global Exchange

In addition to many sweatshop-free and fair trade gifts, Global Exchange offers handmade cards such as these made from renewable bark of the lokta bush in Nepal.



<http://store.gxonlinestore.org>

Feature of the Month



Bring Your Own Bags This Season!

One way to reduce waste during the holidays is to bring your own bags when shopping.

Eco Bags online offers a plethora of environmentally-friendly reusable bags, from canvas totes to string mesh bags to woven bags and baskets. Not only will you be helping reduce waste by using them before the holidays, these bags make wonderful gifts to encourage others to participate in reuse!

Check them out at www.ecobags.com.

Greenfield Paper

Give the gift of wildflowers this year with Greenfield Paper's "Grow-a-Note" cards. Seeds are embedded in the card itself which can be planted according to the simple directions on the back of each card. Greenfield Paper also offers tree-free cards made from sources such as hemp, recycled junk mail, and coffee chaff.

www.greenfieldpaper.com

Greene Street

Greene Street stationary company offers greeting cards made from 100% post consumer recycled paper, processed chlorine free, and uses only toxic-free soy and vegetable-based inks. Greene Street also offsets their energy with carbon credits and offers carbon-free bicycle delivery of their products in NYC.

<http://greenestgreetings.com>

More Waste Reduction Ideas and Resources

- Forest Saver Designs, an online store of environmental products, offers MapWrap, a wrapping paper made out of maps such as NYC subway maps. Check them out at www.forestsaver.com or use your own MTA maps before next year's edition comes out.
- Newspaper comics and magazine pages make for unusual and fun wrapping paper options.
- Reuse paper shopping bags as wrapping paper: they become a blank canvas for painting or drawing your own holiday designs.
- Save wrapping paper, bows and ribbon to use for gift-giving throughout the coming year.
- Consider giving gifts that do not require wrapping, such as gift certificates or event tickets or a tin of home baked cookies.
- More gift ideas from green companies can be found at www.thegreenguide.com and www.coopamerica.org
- Creative holiday gift ideas submitted by members of the Center for a New American Dream are posted online at: www.newdream.org/holiday/giftidea.php



Recycle Your Christmas Tree!

Don't forget to recycle your Christmas tree after the holidays have come and gone!

Check the NYC Department of Sanitation website for more information:

www.nyc.gov/html/dsny

Upcoming Eco-Events

Electronics Recycling Event, Dec. 9, 8am-4pm, PS 321, 7th Avenue & 2nd Street, Park Slope, Brooklyn, Free – Recycle your working and non-working computers (desktop & laptop), monitors, printers, and other peripherals (keyboards, mice, external CD drives, modems, etc), TVs and cell phones at this event sponsored by the Lower East Side Ecology Center. More info at:

www.lesecologycenter.org

Small Planet Fund 5th Annual Party and Fundraiser, Dec. 12, 6pm-10pm, SoHo, Sliding Scale – The Small Planet Fund's Holiday party and fundraiser will feature a cocktail reception with internationally-renowned environmentalist Dr. Vandana Shiva, a silent auction for environmentally-conscious goods and services, and sustainable food and drink. More info at:

www.smallplanetfund.org/events.html.

GreenDrinks NYC Holiday Party, Dec. 12, 7pm-Midnight, M1-5, 52 Walker Street, \$15 suggested donation – GreenDrinks NYC, along with WorldChanging, Treehugger, O2NYC and other local environmental groups host the 'biggest, greenest party of the year.' Featured guest, Alex Steffen, will speak about his new book, *WorldChanging: A User's Guide for the 21st Century*. More info at:

www.green-links.org.

Woods and Water Exhibit, Tuesdays, Year Round, 10am-5pm, Belvedere Castle, Central Park, Free – This all-age exhibit sponsored by the Central Park Conservancy focuses on the rich variety of animals and plants that exist in Central Park. More info: call 212-772-0210.

Did You Know...?

- Half of the paper America consumes is used to wrap and decorate consumer products.
- In the United States, annual trash from gift wrap and shopping bags totals over 4 million tons.
- The amount of cards sold during the holiday season would fill a football field 10 stories high, and requires the harvesting of nearly 300,000 trees.
- Close to 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season.
- About 33 million live Christmas trees are sold in North America every year.

More Facts About Holiday Waste at:
www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/specials/funfacts/winter.htm

News From Around the Planet



Americans Are Recycling More

The United States Environmental Protection Agency recently announced that America's trash disposal has decreased while recycling has increased. Annual waste generation in 2005 was 246 million tons, approximately 2 million tons less than 2004. Additionally, the United States recycled 79 million tons of waste, or 32%, in 2005, an increase of 2 million tons from the previous year.

More info at:

www.wastenews.com/headlines2.html?id=1161619989 – Article about the EPA's announcement

Pacific Sealife Threatened By Plastic Waste

International environmental group Greenpeace recently released a report stating that over 250 different aquatic species are harmed by plastic waste in the Pacific Ocean. The report, entitled "Plastic Debris in the World's Oceans," explains that a 'Trash Vortex' of floating waste, from plastic bags to beach toys to toothbrushes, is now threatening to harm wildlife at the world's largest marine reserve in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Ocean currents carry the plastic waste to this area near the marine reserve, which was designated as a National Monument by President Bush in June 2006. Plastic does not degrade as easily as organic matter, and, thus, poses a large problem for marine wildlife.

"The danger to marine life has been known for decades, but the scale of the problem has not been realized. With plastic consumption rapidly increasing globally, plastic has become ubiquitous in the ocean," says Greenpeace International scientist, Adam Walters.

More info at:

http://oceans.greenpeace.org/en/documents-reports/plastic_ocean_report - Download the 44-page Greenpeace report here
www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/38815/story.htm - Article from Planetark.com about the new report

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