

The City of Davis Recycling Program Presents



The Green Recycler

December 2008

Save Green and be Green...RECYCLE!

A Holiday Recycling Tale

The Grinch hated recycling especially during the holiday season. Now please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason.

It could be a paper cut once caused him great pain.
It could be holiday junk mail drove him insane.
But I think that the most likely reason of all
May have been that his recycling bin was two sizes too small.

Whatever the reason, the junk mail or his small bin,
The Grinch chose to make everyone more miserable than him.

I won't pre-rinse: I'll make my recycling smell.
I'll hide garbage in my leaves so no one can tell.
I'll put out my papers on days when it rains.
I'll add in some food waste to cause dirty stains.
I'll recycle all plastics when only 1's and 2's are accepted.
I'll do whatever I want. Who cares if I'm corrected.
I'll throw in some light bulbs, crystal and glass panes.
They say "glass containers" but they're really all the same.
And sometimes I'll simply throw my recycling away.
After all, who is it hurting, if I miss one day.

The collectors struggled to recycle what they could.
But the Grinch's recyclables were simply no good.
Left out on the curb, so full of contamination,
The overflowing bin sometimes littered. Oh, the abomination!
Week after week, the Grinch called the collectors the fools.
When week after week, he himself, broke the rules.

Then one day the Grinch happened to see
That the landfill was filling as fast as could be.
And the Grinch began to ponder the meaning of this
In a landfill how long would his items exist?

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.
Maybe recycling, he thought, isn't really a chore.
Maybe recycling, he thought, means a little bit more.

In a landfill, the waste items are good for no one
But in recycling, waste items create jobs and so on.
It is good to the earth and good for the community
And he thought that if everyone would recycle in unity
And buy recycled goods when they shopped at the store
And recycle correctly and recycle more...

Then, maybe, perhaps we could
make recycling pay
What happened then...well..in Cali-
fornia they say
That the Grinch's small brain grew
three sizes that day.

And the minute his mind wasn't
feeling so maniacal,
He thought of more ways and more
reasons to recycle.
And he spread these words to his
neighbors and kin:
Recycle correctly and recycle more
in your recycling bin.

And to prove that he was dedicated
to completing the caper
He himself, the Grinch, switched to
recycled-content paper.

Poem found at
www.holidayrecycling.com.

**Find holiday waste reduction
tips online at
www.davisrecycling.org**



City of Davis Public Works Department Recycling Program
1717 5th Street 757-5686
www.davisrecycling.org

**RECYCLING
WORKS**

Holiday Waste Reduction Tips

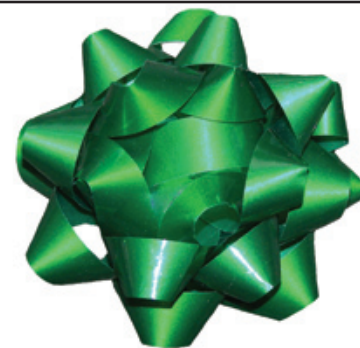
'Tis the season of parties and festivities, food and fun. From Thanksgiving through New Year's we like nothing more than to eat, drink and be merry, so we need successful strategies to cut down on the waste we create from our amplified entertaining.

- Turn down the heat before the guests arrive. You'll save energy while the extra body heat of your guests will warm up the room.
- Walk to neighborhood parties, or carpool if it's too far to walk.
- After the party, don't throw away the leftovers! Put them in plastic containers or bags and send them home with guests.
- Get outdoor light strands that are wired in parallel. These have separate circuitry so that if one bulb blows out the rest will keep shining.
- Remember, the smaller the bulbs, the lower the wattage. Low wattage has two advantages: it consumes less energy and gives off less heat, making your lights safer.
- Bring your own camera instead of using disposable cameras to capture holiday memories.
- Bring your own shopping bags.
- Plan your shopping in advance. Consolidating your shopping trips saves fuel.
- Give gifts that encourage others to use less stuff, like a book about making crafts from reusable items or reusable tote bags.
- For kids, start a savings account or give stocks or bonds. It's fun to watch money grow and it teaches children the value of financial conservation.
- Shop for gifts at antique stores, estate sales or flea markets, since one person's trash is another's treasure.
- Donate unwanted gifts, along with last year's gifts that the kids have outgrown, to charity.
- Buy rechargeable batteries for electronic toys and other portable items that are used regularly.
- Instead of wrapping gifts for the kids, hide the presents, plant clues to where they're hidden and make the kids' search a treasure hunt.
- Send e-greetings to family, friends and business associates who are on-line.
- When buying gifts you will send by mail, pick items that are easy to ship and won't require

Did you know...

The 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high. If we each sent one card less, we'd save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.

- excess packaging.
- Reuse packing cartons and shipping materials such as peanuts, wood shavings, shredded newspaper and bubble wrap.
- Drop off extra packing peanuts at local private mailing centers.
- Buy gifts that don't have to be wrapped at all: tickets to concerts, museums, or sporting events, gift certificates, house plants, or even gifts of your own time.
- When giving oversized gifts like bicycles or CD racks, instead of wrapping them in paper, just tie a bow around them.
- Wrap gifts in old maps, newspapers, Sunday comics or fancy holiday gift bags. Kids' art work is a perfect wrap for presents to proud grandparents.
- Use brown paper grocery bags to wrap small-to-medium size boxes that have to be mailed.



Did you know...

If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.

Content from www.use-less-stuff.com.

- **Cardboard boxes** can be reused as storage containers or gift boxes. If reuse is not possible, flatten and stack cardboard boxes and place next to the garbage and recycling carts on the curb.
- **Paperboard boxes, wrapping paper and cards** can all be reused. Reuse cards as gift tags or turn into gift bookmarks for next year. Save wrapping paper and paperboard boxes to reuse next year. If you can't reuse them, these items can ALL be recycled with paper.
- **Packing materials**—Please put all polystyrene packing "peanuts" in bags to prevent litter. Save and reuse packing peanuts and bubble wrap, or bring to The UPS Store, Pak Mail or PDQ for reuse.
- **Electronics** can be donated to a local charity or thrift store. Computer monitors, TVs, cell phones, printers and all electronics can be recycled for free on a daily basis during normal business hours at the Yolo County Central Landfill (Road 28H & 104).
- **Ribbons and bows** are not recyclable but should be saved and reused.