



The Recycling Council of BC is Dreaming of a Green Christmas!

RCBC's holiday waste reduction resources include gift wrapping, Christmas trees, holiday dinners and more!

Vancouver, December 10, 2019 – 'Tis the season for gifts, lights, trees, and delicious dinners! Whether you're celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or Festivus this holiday season, the Recycling Council of BC (RCBC) has come up with ideas to turn your celebration green and get you on Santa's nice list!

"We're asking British Columbians to rethink how they celebrate, and explore some new, greener traditions", said Brock Macdonald RCBC's Chief Executive Officer.

Among Macdonald's suggestions are opting for personal gift certificates for canning, cooking, baby-sitting, a car wash or a doggie bath, these come with the added bonus of giving the gift of time as well! Giving experiences as gifts is another great option; for the bookworm in your life, visit a writer's festival or workshop together, or get tickets to a local theatre showing an adaptation of your favourite novel. He also suggests using a timer for your Christmas tree lights, which can reduce energy consumption by 30-50%. Another simple choice is to make the wrapping a part of the gift by using backpacks, scarves or tea towels. If purchasing giftwrap, look for paper with recycled content, and skip the cellophane and metallic foil wraps, since they end up in the landfill.

To avoid disposables, use reusable cutlery, tableware and napkins for Christmas dinner; don't have enough place settings? Borrow from your neighbours or guests, or check if there's a party box in your community! Opt for zero waste décor by bringing nature inside! Cedar and pine tree branches, acorns and potted plants can bring color and life into a room; they are compostable at the end of their use, so no branch or leaf has to go to waste. "Canadians already understand the importance of a healthy environment, but sometimes we forget that our everyday actions add to the impact," said Macdonald. "Small changes add up to big results. If everyone in Canada wrapped just 3 gifts in reused paper or reusable gift bags, it would save enough paper to cover every hockey rink in Canada!"

RCBC wants to inspire British Columbians to reduce waste in their own creative and successful ways. For example, ever wondered what is better, a live Christmas tree that you use once, or a plastic tree that can be reused over several years? Did you know that excess tape can make wrapping paper unrecyclable? Have burnt out Christmas light strings taking up space? There's a depot where you can drop them off for free. For answers and ideas, follow along RCBC's social media campaign for holiday waste reduction tips at www.twitter.com/recyclingbc!

All are welcomed to get tips and ideas on reducing their holiday waste at RCBC's website: <http://www.rcbc.ca/holiday-info>. For more ideas, visit our social media pages: www.twitter.com/recyclingbc
www.instagram.com/recyclingbc
www.facebook.com/RecyclingBC

RCBC is Canada's oldest recycling council, working to facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge that enable efficient solutions to eliminate waste.

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