



(November 27, 2021) How to Reduce Your Holiday Waste this Season

The holiday season brings with it endless materials, from cards and wrapping paper, to food and utensils, not to mention the gifts! Here are a few ideas to help you reduce waste this holiday season and make the most of what you have for the people and community you care about.

Reduce food waste by planning meals ahead and making a list to prevent over buying and wasting food. Get creative with your leftovers and scraps and donate leftover cans and boxes of food to a local food pantry. Compost all other leftovers, excluding meat, meat products and dairy, for your lawn and garden in the spring. When choosing dinnerware, use reusable dishes and silverware or buy compostable. Avoid hard to recycle items like polystyrene foam.

Shop smart and consider meaningful gifts that won't quickly end up in a landfill. There are many ways to give this season that won't lead to piles of waste in a week, month, or year. Consider gift baskets filled with consumables like fruit, candies, or meats and cheeses. Or, opt for a once-in-a-lifetime experience like tickets to an upcoming concert or event. Arrange for lessons for something they're interested in like music, archery, or dance. Buy an annual membership to an organization they support. Think local and support local businesses and choose a gift certificate to their favorite restaurant, store, or salon. For an extra thoughtful gift, create a book of personal coupons for babysitting, house cleaning, or whatever you're good at!

Whatever the gift giving route you choose this holiday season, consider the final destination of the materials. And when it's all over, don't forget to recycle cards and wrapping paper, unless it is metallic or glittery, and save ribbons and gift bags for next year.

Happy Holidays Barry County!