

STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

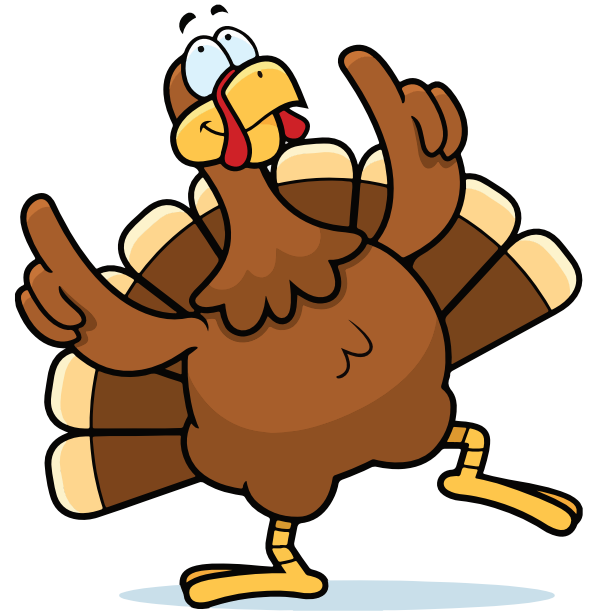
Week 47: November 23, 2021

HOW TO: REDUCE YOUR HOLIDAY WASTE

The holiday season is a great time to spend celebrating with friends and family, however, it is also time when waste can really pile up; think about, decorations, food waste, and wrapping paper. Americans produce more trash during the holiday season than at any other part of the year.

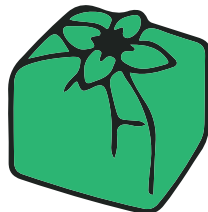
DITCH THE DISPOSABLES

- Opt not to use disposable plates, cutlery, and cups or choose to use compostable or biodegradable items over plastic and styrofoam.
- Use fabric napkins, like most restaurants use, that can be thrown in the washer after dinner.
- Yes, it is much easier to bake in those disposable aluminum pans but that can end up being a lot of extra waste. Use baking pans and dishes to help limit waste.



PRESENTS

- Presents can mean a lot of extra waste with packaging and wrapping. Reuse or recycle cardboard boxes. Heavy boxes can be used for your holiday decor storage also.
- Wrap presents with reusable boxes or tote bags. You can even wrap small items with a bandana or dish towel. For great ways to wrap presents in fabric to be reused check out the art of Furoshiki wrapping!
- Buying local and handmade gifts and decor is also a great way to help your local economy and artists this season. Don't forget Small Business Saturday on November, 27, 2021!



LEFTOVERS

- Have guests bring their own containers so you aren't using loads of plastic storage bags.
- Way too much food left? Donate it, ask your neighbors, local shelters, and/or churches if they can take it.

DECOR

- Purchase quality and timeless decor items that can be reused year after year so you are not buying all new lights and ornaments every year.
- Opt for fresh flowers or greenery that can go in your compost later.
- Make your own garland with fresh greenery, pinecones, dried orange slices, or even popcorn.
- Get a real tree that can be donated to your local DNR to be repurposed into natural habitats for wildlife and aquatic life in local rivers.
- Ditching those disposables and using dishware, glasses, and fabric napkins will not only limit waste but add to your decor.
- Use LED lights that will use less electricity or even put solar lights outside so your carbon footprint and electric bill is smaller.

