



FOCUS

WASTE MINIMIZATION

Achieving Environmental Excellence

Government's role in protecting our natural resources typically has been as the regulatory authority that controls and monitors environmental effects. To improve environmental performance, cut costs, and avoid new regulations, federal and state governments are encouraging industries, businesses, community groups, and many other organizations to form partnerships. The effort is being made to encourage improved environmental stewardship and performance. Partnerships forged through this effort will leverage limited resources and spawn new ideas that can produce better results more quickly and more cost-effectively than what might be expected through regulatory actions alone.

EPA'S NEW REINVENTION INITIATIVE - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it will create a new system to reward businesses and other organizations that excel in environmental management. This action was one of 10 presented in a new EPA report entitled "Aiming for Excellence: Actions to Encourage Stewardship and Accelerate Environmental Progress." As part of EPA's continued efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of environmental programs, the report describes additional steps that EPA will be taking in the next 12 to 18 months to strengthen the nation's environmental protection system.

Copies of the report can be obtained by calling the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at 1-800-490-9198, or visit <http://www.epa.gov/reinvent/taskforce/report99>.

DENR'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY - As part of the State of North Carolina's pursuit for environmental excellence, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) has adopted an environmental policy titled "Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and Voluntary ISO 14001 EMS Model." A copy of this policy may be found on the Web at <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/03/02256.pdf>.

The policy commits DENR to encourage implementation of effective EMSs by organizations, seek to educate its customers and DENR employees about EMSs, and explore incentives to promote adoption of EMSs.

EMSs and ISO 14001 are increasingly being used by public and private entities to improve compliance, to go beyond compliance, and establish a systematic approach to manage environmental impacts based on continual improvement. Some groups choose to become ISO 14001 certified based on market decisions such as supplier demand; others seek certification because of corporate pressure or a desire to improve the management of environmental issues.

DENR's mission is "to provide leadership, education, and advocacy for the responsible stewardship of North Carolina's environment and natural resources." Adoption of EMSs by North Carolina organizations furthers DENR's vision of a healthy environment and a vibrant economy. DENR also recognizes that regulations address only a portion of environmental effects and that EMSs facilitate an organization to address both regulated and non-regulated environmental impacts and promote beyond-compliance activities like pollution prevention.

DENR is discussing proposed legislation entitled "Environmental Excellence Program Agreements" with industry and environmental groups. The legislation would offer benefits such as regulatory flexibility or incentives such as public recognition and tax credits while requiring an organization to implement an EMS and maintain a good compliance history. Discussions are continuing on this proposed legislation.

For more information about DENR's new EMS policy contact Beth Graves with DPPEA at (919) 715-6506 or Beth.Graves@ncmail.net. ▼

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



1998 Governor's Awards	2-3
Y2K Enforcement Policy	4
Food Service Industry Program	5
Multimedia News Update	6-7
Calendar of Events	8

North Carolina organizations recognized for 1998 environmental accomplishments

Wastes reduced by 290,313 tons, \$22.84 million saved

Eighteen North Carolina organizations, representing large, medium, and small business; and federal, state, and local governments, were recently recognized for their contributions to environmental excellence. In a September ceremony, DENR Secretary Bill Holman presented these organizations with the 1998 Governor's Award for Excellence in Waste Reduction for their successes in pollution prevention, economic savings, and environmental performance. The ceremony was a culmination of tremendous waste reduction efforts by these organizations that resulted in saving more than \$22.84 million; diverting nearly 300,000 tons of organic, solid, and hazardous wastes from the waste stream; and conserving more than 10 million gallons of water. These recipients also represent nearly 60,000 North Carolina employees.

"These companies have raised the bar for sustaining North Carolina's environment," Holman said. "Their pollution prevention efforts in source reduction, reuse, recycling, and resource recovery show that protecting the environment can be good for business and the state's economy." Award recipients and their accomplishments follow.

LARGE BUSINESS

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

COMMSCOPE INCORPORATED of Hickory, is the world's largest producer of coaxial cable used in the television industry. A total of \$961,000 has been saved from a unique reel return program. In 1998, 18,770,000 pounds of materials were recycled, which generated \$4.96 million in revenues.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT

CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY of Roxboro, generates electricity by burning millions of tons of coal annually that generates 500,000 tons of fly ash per year. In 1998, 167,000 tons were diverted from CP&L's on-site landfills for use in concrete. CP&L has already noticed a savings of \$900,000 in reduced landfill costs from this diversion.

EXCEPTIONAL STEWARD

ALCOA in Badin, is a primary aluminum smelter that reduced its hazardous waste by 1.35 million pounds and solid waste by 273 tons in 1998. Combined annual savings exceeded \$972,780.

EXCEPTIONAL STEWARD

BAYER CORPORATION'S Clayton plant is the largest human blood plasma fractionation facility in the world. Pollution prevention efforts resulted in a 33-percent reduction of waste generation and the conservation of 10,000,000 gallons of water yearly. Savings for 1998 exceeded \$42,000.

MEDIUM BUSINESS

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

HIGHLAND INDUSTRIES, located in Kernersville, produces coatings for vehicle airbags, tire fabrics, airline and marine safety fabrics, and textiles for space vehicles. Highland's pollution prevention practices reduced hazardous air pollutants by 50 percent and hazardous waste generation by 30 percent. Annual savings exceeded \$160,000.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT

HOLT SUBLIMATION PRINTING & PRODUCTS in Burlington, is a graphic arts company that produces designs and prints for transferring onto fabrics, plastics, and wood. Holt's pollution prevention efforts resulted in a reduction of 86 percent of its air emissions and 100 percent of reactive inks.

EXCEPTIONAL STEWARD

APOLLO CHEMICAL CORPORATION of Burlington, manufactures chemicals for the textile industry. Apollo reduced its water usage from 35,000 to 6,000 gallons of water per day, and 4,000 gallons are now reused in plant operations. Apollo's 1998 savings total \$44,500.

SMALL BUSINESS

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

INTER-FAITH FOOD SHUTTLE is a food rescue program that feeds 3,800 people per day. More than 46,000 pounds of food are donated weekly from 250 donor agencies. Inter-Faith saved \$27,500 by diverting 1,100 tons of food wastes from local landfills. With reusable food containers, \$13,000 also was saved annually.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT

NELSON CANDLE AND BEESWAX COMPANY located in Havelock, manufactures candles that are 100 percent recyclable and manufactured from organic wax. Through reuse and recycling, Nelson Candle has reduced its solid waste by five tons per year and has saved more than \$8,000 in virgin organic wax purchases.

EXCEPTIONAL STEWARD

CHARLOTTE PLATING INCORPORATED performs decorative and hard chrome electroplating and electroless nickel plating. Pollution activities include water and energy conservation and reuse programs.

“These companies have raised the bar for sustaining North Carolina’s environment.”



BILL HOLMAN,
Secretary,
Department of
Environment and
Natural Resources

FEDERAL FACILITY

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

U.S. COAST GUARD SUPPORT CENTER in Elizabeth City, is one of the nation's largest Coast Guard bases. Through inventory control, material substitution, and process modifications, the Coast Guard has reduced hazardous air pollutant emissions by 84 percent and hazardous waste generation by 70 percent. Pollution prevention initiatives saved \$22,199 in 1998.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT

U.S. MARINE CORPS AIR STATION in Cherry Point, developed comprehensive recycling and pollution prevention programs for waste minimization, resource recovery, and recycling. Hazardous waste generation was reduced by 53 percent. Pollution prevention and recycling initiatives produced a total of \$11,750,292 in income and cost avoidance.

EXCEPTIONAL STEWARD

U.S. MARINE CORPS BASE in Camp Lejeune, has a diverse pollution prevention program that encompasses several facilities and includes reductions of 55 tons of hazardous materials and 37,000 tons of solid waste. Savings for pollution prevention activities in 1998 were \$1,763,534.

STATE AGENCY

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION'S BROWN CREEK CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION operates a 852-bed facility. Brown Creek conducted an analysis of its waste stream that led to source reduction, reuse, recycling, and vermicomposting. These activities have reduced Brown Creek's solid waste generation by 67 percent and have saved \$60,672 annually.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT

THE NORTH CAROLINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE'S Guildford County center is the county's home for the extension agents, volunteer programs, and base for cooperative scientific endeavors with North Carolina A&T State University. Reuse and recycling efforts resulted in recycling 6.5 tons of tires and 50 tons of white goods for a total reduction is 61.3 tons in solid waste.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

CHATHAM COUNTY has reduced waste generation by implementing several reuse and recycling programs. These programs have allowed for 63,000 pounds of hazardous waste and 1.4 tons of latex paint to be properly managed and diverted from the landfill. Chatham County has achieved a 22 percent per capita waste generation reduction.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT

CITY OF RALEIGH SOLID WASTE SERVICES' pollution prevention program includes the Raleigh Recycling Program, a comprehensive yard waste program, a methane gas recycling program, and land application of wastewater sludge. These programs have reduced sludge by 47,000 tons, solid waste by 24,000 tons, and saved nearly \$1.1 million in sludge diversion projects.

EXCEPTIONAL STEWARD

CRAVEN COUNTY implemented a Pay-As-You-Throw program in response to the rising cost of solid waste management and the growing pressures to reduce dependence on landfills for solid waste disposal. Since Pay-As-You-Throw implementation, solid waste tonnage has dropped by 44,594 tons.

To view full case studies for award winners, visit <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/01/00168.pdf>, or contact Sharon Gladwell, DPPEA's public information officer, at (919) 715-6514 or sharon.gladwell@ncmail.net. ▼

DENR's special enforcement policy for the year 2000 computer bug

Many computers were programmed to recognize only the last two digits of a year. This means that January 1, 1900, and January 1, 2000, could be interpreted by these computers as the same date. Also, many computerized functions must recognize a specific year, date, and time to work properly. This recognition problem or bug may cause computers to malfunction, causing potential environmental violations such as wastewater spills.

DENR has adopted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's policy for Y2K-related environmental compliance violations. This special policy focuses on testing computer-related equipment before the turn of the century to eliminate problems. DENR will view efforts to fix computer bug problems before January 1, 2000, in a favorable light if these efforts meet the testing criteria.

DENR may, at the department's discretion, waive enforcement that may otherwise apply as well as recommend against criminal prosecution for violations resulting from Y2K readiness testing, if testing meets the nine criteria listed below.

- 1 Plan for testing.** Before testing begins, establish a written plan that tests for Y2K readiness.
- 2 Violations resulting from testing.** Violations that occur as a direct result of testing Y2K readiness must be reported to DENR within 24 hours as testing violations.
- 3 Necessity of testing.** Testing must be needed to determine Y2K-related problems or the effectiveness of Y2K repairs. Testing must be part of a comprehensive testing program directed at eliminating system deficiencies. Tests should occur for the shortest period possible to determine environmental compliance and should be completed at least 30 days before January 1, 2000.
- 4 Absence of harm.** The testing plan must be designed to avoid any potential for violations resulting from testing that may harm or endanger public health or the environment.

5 Immediate correction. The testing plan must require that violations occurring during the test period must cease at the completion of the test or be corrected within 24 hours, whichever is sooner.

6 Quick fix. The testing facility must remediate any releases or other adverse health or environmental consequences resulting from Y2K readiness in a timely manner.

7 Reporting. Violations should be reported promptly, as required by the state. If not earlier reporting is not required, all violations must be reported no later than February 1, 2000.

8 Retest. The testing plan must include a requirement that any retesting needed be completed at least 30 days before January 1, 2000, and meet these criteria. Retesting should be designed to achieve full compliance.

9 Cooperation. Facilities must provide information requested by the state to determine if penalty waiver or recommendation against criminal prosecution is appropriate.

Self-Reporting Policy. Facilities that satisfy these nine criteria and self-report violations resulting from testing consistent with the testing plan in a timely fashion will be eligible for penalty reductions consistent with DENR's self-reporting policy.

Disclaimer. This enforcement policy does not constitute final Agency action. It does not create any rights, duties, obligations, or defenses, implied or otherwise, in any persons or entities. It sets forth factors that DENR intends to use in the exercise of its enforcement discretion, and it is not intended for use in pleading, at hearing, at trial or in any adjudicatory context.

For more information about DENR's Y2K Enforcement Policy, go to DENR's home page at <http://www.ehnr.state.nc.us/EHNR>. ♥

visit DPPEA online at <http://www.p2pays.org>

FOCUS: Waste Minimization is published by the divisions of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance, Waste Management, Air Quality, and Water Quality of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). It is intended to provide North Carolina industries and other interested parties with current information concerning proper waste management and waste reduction. The information contained in this publication is believed to be accurate and reliable. However, the application of this information is at the reader's own risk. Mention of products and services in the publication does not constitute an endorsement by the State of North Carolina. The information contained in this publication may be cited freely.

If you have comments, waste minimization case summaries, resource information, or questions for the next issue of the *FOCUS* newsletter, call Norma Murphy at (919) 715-6513, fax (919) 715-6794, e-mail Norma.Murphy@ncmail.net, or write the North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (DPPEA), P.O. Box 29569, Raleigh, NC 27626-9569.

State of North Carolina: James B. Hunt, Jr., Governor, Wayne McDevitt, DENR Secretary; Gary Hunt, DPPEA Director.



New program for food service industry created

It's a greasy job, but someone's got to do it

The North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance has launched a new program to reduce waste generation for restaurants, cafeterias, and other food service providers.

The program was created to help businesses and local governments better manage waste generated by food service operations by finding opportunities for source reduction, reuse, and recycling.

Proper control of raw goods, final products, and the waste streams associated with food preparation is an important source reduction technique. The program includes a multi-media approach to source reduction, addressing all aspects of restaurant and cafeteria operations, which include inventory controls, food recovery, solid waste management, and energy and water conservation.

The program encourages food service establishments to reduce solid wastes by ordering bulk supplies, working with vendors to reduce or reuse shipping and packaging materials, controlling inventory to ensure less spoilage, and serving reusable ware over disposables. Other waste reduction techniques include source separating materials for recycling, reusing when possible, donating edible food waste to charitable organizations and inedible food waste to local farmers, and developing small-scale composting operations.

The program also addresses the management of fats, oil, and grease (FOG). Improperly disposed oil and grease has been a significant problem for wastewater collection and treatment facilities statewide in the form of unsanitary and costly sewer overflows. In 1998, approximately 30 percent of the 3,800 reported sewer overflows in the state were caused by FOG blockages. A recent DPPEA survey of pretreatment coordinators indicated that more than 100 communities are experiencing FOG problems. The surveys indicated the need for DPPEA assistance in developing resource materials, fact sheets, brochures, and posters. Through targeted resource material that includes a cartoon character, the "Grease Goblin," the program will help businesses develop effective FOG management practices, thereby avoiding improper disposal penalties.

DPPEA has begun partnering with communities throughout the state to present the program in the form of workshops to restaurant and industrial and institutional cafeteria owners, managers, and staff.

For more information on restaurant waste reduction and food material management visit <http://www.p2pays.org/food/index.htm>, or contact Kim Fenton with DPPEA at (919) 715-6507 or kim.fenton@ncmail.net. ▼



THE GREASE GOBLIN

Did You Know...

30% of the 3,800 reported sewer system overflows in North Carolina in 1998 were caused by FOG blockage of the sewers. You can help prevent a costly and unsanitary overflow by following a few simple steps:

DO

- ✓ Scrape excess grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage.
- ✓ Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes, or start a compost pile; promote use of scraping ware prior to washing.
- ✓ Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of solid wastes.
- ✓ Promote the concept of "3 R's": Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

DO NOT

- ⊗ Pour grease, fats, and oils from cooking down the drain.
- ⊗ Use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- ⊗ Use the sewer as a means of disposing food scraps.

Multimedia News Update

Air Quality News

STATE SENATE APPROVES CLEAN AIR BILL

On July 19, 1999, the N.C. General Assembly gave final approval to legislation enacting a major portion of Gov. Jim Hunt's comprehensive clean air plan for protecting public health, the environment, and jobs. The state Senate approved the Ambient Air Quality Improvements (Senate Bill 953), which expands and improves programs for reducing air pollution from cars and trucks.

The clean air bill is aimed at reducing motor vehicle emissions that contribute to ozone, the primary component of smog and the most widespread air quality problem in North Carolina. Exhaust from cars and trucks accounts for about half of the ozone-forming pollution statewide and up to 90 percent in major metropolitan areas. The legislation will:

- ❖ Establish state-wide goals for cutting emissions of nitrogen oxides and for reducing the growth of vehicle miles traveled in the state.
- ❖ Require the use of low-sulfur gasoline statewide. Expand and improve the inspection and maintenance program for testing exhaust from cars and trucks.
- ❖ Set goals for the purchase of low-emission vehicles for the state motor fleet, and encourage the purchase of such vehicles for buses used by public school and transportation systems.
- ❖ Direct the state Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to develop an incentives program to promote voluntary reductions in air pollution.
- ❖ Direct the Department of Transportation to consider ways to reduce air pollution in designing transportation projects.

Changes in the inspection and maintenance program for motor vehicles also are expected to reduce ozone-forming pollutants by about 10 percent. Under that provision, the program will be expanded from nine counties now to 48 counties by January 1, 2006. The bill also will require inspection stations to acquire new equipment that tests exhaust for nitrogen oxides.

The legislation focuses on motor vehicles because the EMC and the state Division of Air Quality (DAQ) already have the authority to regulate air emissions from utilities, factories and other stationary sources. The Governor's clean air plan also calls for substantial cutbacks in nitrogen oxide emissions from the state's largest utilities, and the EMC plans to start considering rules to carry out that proposal later this year.

For more information, visit DAQ's Web site at <http://daq.state.nc.us>, or call (919) 715-7408. ▼

AIR QUALITY INDEX REVISIONS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is revising its Air Quality Index to enhance the public's understanding of air pollution across the nation. Previously known as the Pollutant Standards Index, this uniform air quality index (AQI) is used by state and local agencies for reporting on daily air quality to the public. The Index provides general information to the public about air quality and associated health effects. The Index provides information on pollutant concentrations for ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. The Index is "normalized" across pollutants so that an Index value of 100 represents the level of health protection associated with the health-based standard for each pollutant and an Index value of 500 represents the significant harm level.

The revised Index adds an additional air quality category just above the level of the standard. Previously, Index values from 101-200 were characterized "unhealthy." The revised Index establishes a category from 101-150 characterized as "unhealthy for sensitive groups," and a category of 151-200 as "unhealthy." To the extent that state and local agencies use colors to communicate Index values, specific colors are required. For instance, any agency that chooses to use colors to communicate such values must represent the Index values of 151-200 as "red".

Interested parties can download the final decision on the Index from EPA's World Wide Web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. For further information about the proposal, contact Susan Stone (919 541-1146) or Terence Fitz-Simons (919 541-0889) of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.

INDEX

VALUE 0-50
GREEN
AIR QUALITY:
Good

VALUE 51-100
YELLOW
AIR QUALITY:
Moderate

VALUE 101-150
ORANGE
AIR QUALITY:
Unhealthy for
Sensitive Groups

VALUE 151-200
RED
AIR QUALITY:
Unhealthy

VALUE 201-300
PURPLE
AIR QUALITY:
Very Unhealthy

VALUE 301-500
MAROON
AIR QUALITY:
Hazardous

Solid Waste News

NORTH CAROLINA RECYCLING BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER ASSISTS MANUFACTURERS TO CONVERT TO USING RECYCLED MATERIALS

The North Carolina Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC), a program of the DPPEA, is providing assistance to manufacturers in the state to help them to "close the loop" by replacing virgin materials with recycled materials in the manufacturing process. This process, called "feedstock conversion," will help conserve natural resources while bringing more recycled-content products to the marketplace. An added bonus of feedstock conversion is that it has the potential to create new jobs.

Since its creation in March 1995, RBAC has assisted numerous North Carolina businesses by promoting environmentally sound economic development through the reuse and remanufacture

of recyclable materials. The center also works hand-in-hand with financial organizations such as Community Center for Self Help and the Sustainable Jobs Fund to provide financial incentives for businesses to develop recycling and reuse projects.

RBAC recently offered \$40,000 in grant funding to businesses seeking to develop projects that will result in sustainable, well-documented conversion from virgin materials to the use of recycled materials. Recipients of the grant will be announced in January 2000.

For more information, call (919) 715-6516 or log onto DPPEA's Web site at www.p2pays.org. ▼

Hazardous Waste News

NEW GUIDELINES FOR LCMS

On June 28, 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced changes to the hazardous waste rules that apply to lamps containing mercury and other hazardous constituents. The new rule, finalized on July 6, 1999, in the Federal Register, is intended to protect public health and the environment by making recycling of fluorescent bulbs easier and cheaper. Lamps that are not recycled will continue to be treated with the same disposal safeguards that apply to all hazardous wastes.

Under the new rule, states will now be able to encourage consumers to voluntarily recycle discarded fluorescent lamps and other household hazardous waste at approved collection facilities. By allowing and encouraging recycling, less of these wastes will end up in municipal landfills and incinerators, thereby providing stronger safeguards for public health and the environment.

Under the new federal rule, lamps can be treated as "universal wastes," which are items such as batteries, thermostats and pesticides commonly thrown into the trash by households and small businesses. Lamps that are intact and destined for recycling can be managed as Universal Waste in North Carolina per an enforcement policy implemented in March 1996. The enforcement policy will be modified to reflect that North Carolina has automatically adopted the EPA rule with an effective date of January 6, 2000. The universal waste rule reduces the amount of hazardous waste reaching municipal

landfills by encouraging greater recycling and proper disposal. The universal waste rule reduces the regulatory burden on businesses that generate these wastes because standards are less stringent for storing, transporting, and collecting universal wastes. However, the hazardous waste requirements for recycling, treatment or disposal must be complied with fully.

Before the rule change, many used lamps were fully regulated as hazardous waste because they frequently contained mercury, and sometimes lead. About one billion fluorescent lamps are disposed annually, many of which are currently subject to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requirements. The decision to classify discarded hazardous waste lamps as universal waste was based on comments received on EPA's 1994 proposal for managing such lamps, and on a 1997 study of mercury emissions from discarded lamps. The study showed that these emissions would be reduced under the universal waste approach.

Copies of the rule are available at <http://www.epa.gov> under Laws and Regulations or by calling the RCRA Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 or (703) 412-9810. For a list of recyclers, refer to the *Directory of Markets for Recyclable Materials* available online at <http://www.p2pays.org/DMRM/default.htm>. Fluorescent lights, fluorescent tubes, and ballasts are listed under the miscellaneous category. To receive a hardcopy of this information, contact Norma Murphy with DPPEA at (919) 715-6513 or Norma.Murphy@ncmail.net. ▼

TOP 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO

REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE

Americans throw away an extra million tons of garbage each week between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. The North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance has several suggestions for reducing waste during the holiday season and throughout the year.

- Use decorative reusable boxes and bags for gift giving instead of wrapping paper. If you must wrap, use comics, old calendars, or fabric!**
- Select a potted Christmas tree and plant it outdoors after the holidays.**
- Use reusable bags when shopping. Return plastic bags to stores for recycling.**
- Decorate your tree with natural ornaments such as pinecones, flowers, and dried fruits.**
- Use reusable plates, cups, and silverware instead of disposables.**
- Give "green" gifts that do not require wrapping, such as gift certificates or a charitable donation in the recipient's name.**
- Purchase rechargeable batteries.**
- Send leftover food home with guests in reusable containers.**
- Reduce waste and save \$ by purchasing larger rolls of film.**
- Exchange items such as wrapping paper and Christmas decorations with family, friends, and neighbors.**



*Happy Holidays
to you and yours!*



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