DO GOOD DECEMBER

FROM THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

In this newseltter, learn about carbon footprints, how the holidays contribute to your carbon footprint, and sustainable holiday tips!

What is a Carbon Footprint?

A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, generated by our actions. An item's carbon footprint can be direct or indirect and includes the cultivation of materials used to make the item and the factory emissions released during production and delivery (ie: overseas).

The average carbon footprint for a person in the United States is 16 tons, one of the highest rates in the world.

TIP: Shop locally this holiday season! You'll help reduce your carbon footprint and that of companies delivering your online orders.

The United Nations (UN) created the "Conference of Parties" (COP) to combat global climate change. Each year, nations come together to discuss the best ways to take action and tackle climate change. Learn more about the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26).

the carbon footprint

water · emissions · CO₂ · fuel · electricity · personnel · transport · gas · offsets · recycling · waste

Click here for more information on climate change and carbon footprints.

Calculate your carbon footprint here.

Choose gifts that last. Buy items that have a purpose, meaning, and value.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

THE HOLIDAYS AND CARBON FOOTPRINT: HOW ARE THEY CONNECTED?

The holidays contribute to an increased carbon footprint by creating a high demand for products which leads to an increase in delivery services, including air and sea travel, and generating high levels of food waste.

Learn more about the holiday season's environmental impact.

Sustainable Holiday Tips

Holiday Cards

Did you know…Over 66% of greeting cards are discarded after they are sent? Try to repurpose holiday cards rather than throwing them out. Here are some ideas!

- Send your Holiday cards virtually!
- Look into plantable cards!

Gift Wrapping

- Try to use recycled paper, leftover wrapping paper from previous years, fabric squares, or even a reusable bag!
- **Sticky tape, ribbons, and paper covered in glitter can't be recycled.**
- Here are some wrapping paper alternatives.
- Switching to brown eco-friendly paper will help to minimize the high levels of waste produced at this time of year. Prioritize fabric wrapping over paper wrapping.
- Click here for more wrapping paper ideas or check out this great video!

Sustainable Holiday Tips

It can take up to 15 years for a tree to grow 6-7 feet tall. Why cut it off at the trunk and end its life after all that time when you can rent a Christmas tree! This alternative allows the tree and its roots to remain potted and intact. This living tree becomes part of your home decor for a brief time before resuming its life in the great outdoors. Allowing a tree to be replanted in the wild will enable it to grow and mature while continuing to produce vital oxygen that all life on Earth needs to survive!

Here are some companies that rent out trees and replant them at the end of the holiday season! You may also purchase your own potted pine tree and plant it in the ground when it outgrows its pot!

A 6-foot artificial tree has a carbon footprint equivalent to about 40kg of greenhouse gas emissions, which is more than twice that of a real tree that is thrown away, and more than 10 times that of a real tree that is burned.

Feeling Green?

Here are a few more holiday tips!

- Decorate the houseplants you already have with lights and other holiday decor.

- Save food scraps to make broth or new dishes!

- Switch to LED lights for your tree and home decorations. Glendale has the Smart Home Upgrade Program for FREE energy and water-saving upgrades.

- Before buying new appliances, check out the Smart Home Rebate Program.

- Look into Residential Programs and Rebates here.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND WORKING TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE, GREEN GLENDALE.

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