

I'M DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

Sure, a white Christmas is nice, but a "green Christmas" is even better! Make your home more earth friendly during the holidays in everything from decorating and gift selection, to preparing the family feast. During this special season of family traditions, why not start a new one this year by encouraging everyone in your household to reduce, reuse and recycle?

DECK THE HALLS AND BE EARTH FRIENDLY

Instead of synthetic tinsel or garland, try evergreen branches this year. Many local nurseries and discount stores have fresh cut pine branches for the "hanging of the greens." And, don't forget the 100% all-natural mistletoe.

Consider a living tree instead of a cut tree this year. They come with the root ball wrapped in a burlap sack. Give the tree an old fashioned look with strings of popcorn, pine cones cloth bows and paper chains children can make from recycled paper. After the holidays, planting the tree can be fun for the whole family. If you don't have room in your yard, the tree can be donated to the city for planting in a public place.

And when you find time to relax in front of a warm fire, don't forget that those wood ashes can go right into your compost bin, once they're COMPLETELY cold!

YOUR GIFTS CAN BE A PRESENT TO MOTHER EARTH

Concern for the environment can be reflected in the gifts you give this Christmas. There are numerous children's gifts that teach as well as entertain, like stuffed animals representing endangered species, board games and puzzles that challenge a child's environmental savvy. Children's apparel, toys and accessories which feature environmental themes can be found in specialty stores and catalogues.

Got an avid reader on your gift list? What about a book or magazine subscription full of earth friendly news?

Choose traditional gifts that cut down on energy use, like a quilt instead of an electric blanket, a wind-up clock instead of an electric one. Invest in rechargeable batteries for children toys; you'll save money in the long run.

THE WRAP UP

Select wrapping paper made of recycled paper, or use the Sunday comics, or "home-made" gift wrap cut out of brown paper sacks.

Wrap gifts in gifts, like potholders in kitchen towels or a cotton bandana and safety pins to

wrap a book. Use yarn, shoe laces, hair ribbons or baby rattles in place of bows. Fabric scraps can be cut into pretty ribbons. Use gift boxes that can be used over and over again. Save the boxes, ribbons and bows for next year!

When mailing gifts afar, use wadded up newspaper or air-popped popcorn instead of the styrofoam "peanuts" or plastic bubble wrap.

HOLIDAY FARE THAT'S FAIR TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Keep in mind during the holidays that Americans discard more than **13.2 million tons** of food waste each year. Try to cut down on food waste this year by buying and preparing only what you, your guests and family really need.

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS, AND I'LL BE DRIVING GREEN.

Heading home for the holidays? Here are a few tips from FORD Motor Company on how to "drive green."

- Maintain a proper engine tune-up to keep your car running efficiently. Keep wheels aligned. Wheels that are fighting each other waste fuel.
- Underinflated tires increase rolling resistance and reduce fuel economy.
- Use good quality, energy-conserving oils, with viscosity grade consistent with your owner's manual. Look for cans marked with the symbol ECII, which is the American Society of Testing Materials logo for fuel-efficient oils.
- Use a fuel with good detergent additives, to keep the engine running clean and efficient.
- Use a high-quality fuel with an octane rating appropriate for your vehicle and use the lowest octane possible.
- Avoid piling luggage on the roof if possible. This reduces aerodynamics and hurts fuel economy; so does driving with windows open.
- Start the car and immediately, but gently, drive away. Don't leave your car idling.
- Start slowly, avoiding rapid acceleration. Jack rabbit starts are terrible fuel wasters.
- Try to maintain a constant speed; speeding up and slowing down wastes fuel.
- Drive at posted speed limits. That's a tip that could save a life as well as fuel.
- Use a litterbag, not the window!

OH CHRISTMAS TREE, OH CHRISTMAS TREE. HOW LOVELY TO BE RECYCLED.

Recycling Christmas trees is as easy as humming Jingle Bells this holiday season for residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County as well! Inside city limits, residents in single family homes can place their tree at the curb for recycling. If you live in an apartment, or outside city limits, all you have to do is take your tree to any one of these recreation centers for recycling.

Recreation Centers Accepting Trees

1. Sprague Street Recreation Center
2. Salem Lake (at the gate)
3. Parkland Tennis Courts
4. Little Creek Recreation Center
5. Polo Park (swimming pool parking lot)
6. Hanes Park (tennis parking lot)
7. Old Town Recreation Center (tennis parking lot)
8. Crawford Park
9. Winston Lake (swimming pool parking lot)
10. Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center
11. Hathaway Park

Please remember to remove all decorations, lights, stands and nails from trees! Trees can be dropped off at these locations through February 4, 1994.

Be sure to look for the "RECYCLE CHRISTMAS TREES HERE" sign.

Mulch generated from grinding and chipping these trees will be available at no charge to the public at Winston Lake Swimming Pool and Polo Park parking lots from January 4 to February 4.

Last year the Recreation Department recycled more than 20,000 trees. The remainder of the trees left at the curb were recycled by the City Sanitation Department. For more information on tree recycling, contact the Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Department at 630-7670.