



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2007

NVRC 07.29

Contact: Debbie Spiliotopoulos, Environmental Planner
703.642.4631 or dspilio@novaregion.org

Let's Go "Green" for the Holidays

Northern Virginia officials encourage residents to "think green" and keep reuse and recycling at the top of their list when shopping and enjoying the holidays. The Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the Northern Virginia Waste Board have made their own list of "green holiday" ideas.

Gift ideas that won't add to the waste stream:

- Gifts of experience, such as offering to teach a hobby, skill or craft or provide a service.
- Gift certificates for events and performances.
- Gifts of food stored in reusable or recyclable containers or wrapped in fabric instead of paper or decorated with bows only.
- Gifts which are durable and come with less packaging.
- Gifts, paper and cards made with recycled content.
- Include rechargeable batteries instead of single-use batteries with electronic gifts.
- Reuse gifts from thrift or second-hand shops.

When shopping for a tree:

- Purchase a live tree and later plant it in your yard.
- Recycle discarded trees; local governments pick up trees and recycle them into mulch.
- Consider decorating a large tropical houseplant instead of purchasing a holiday tree.

Other holiday recycling ideas:

- Recycle catalogs, holiday cards and envelopes.
- Donate unwanted toys and household items to charity organizations, instead of placing them in the trash.
- Donate unwanted magazines to medical offices' waiting rooms and gyms for patrons to enjoy.

For more information and ideas, contact the appropriate local government or Debbie Spiliotopoulos, Environmental Planner at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, 703.642.4631.