

## Holiday Suggestions to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repurchase

### Decorating:

- ✓ Use low energy LED holiday lights—and save energy and money.
- ✓ Buy a locally grown tree or cut a cedar tree with permission from property owner.
- ✓ Use natural decorations for tree and table such as acorns, bittersweet, cedar boughs, grape vines, flower and grass seed heads, etc.

### Cards:

- ✓ Send e-cards or make your own using last years cards or cut outs from gift wrap—an opportunity to be creative!

### Gift wrap:

- ✓ Holiday paper or sacks and ribbon saved from previous year.
- ✓ Comic sections of newspapers
- ✓ Used sacks (decorate with cutouts from last year's cards, your own artwork etc.) Great activity to get children involved in!
- ✓ Reusable items such as tea towels are great for wrapping a gift.

### Meal time:

- ✓ Much food is wasted at holiday meals. Reduce waste by purchasing and preparing only quantities needed — compost any that is wasted.
- ✓ Plan menus around locally grown foods as much as possible.
- ✓ Avoid using disposable products. Use plates, glasses, cutlery, napkins etc that can be washed and reused.

### Gifts: (all ages) —be sure to take your reusable canvas bags when you shop.

- ✓ Look for gift items with recycled content and the least amount of packaging.
- ✓ Give an experience—buy tickets to local concerts, movies, plays, athletic events etc. Buy a membership for a museum or a gift certificate for a locally owned restaurant or business.
- ✓ Homemade gifts are much appreciated—a home-cooked meal, hand knitted scarf, pajamas for the kids on your list, jams/jellies, breads, etc.
- ✓ Give treasures from an antique store or used bookstore.
- ✓ Coupons to be redeemed when desired: Childcare to provide a night out for the recipient; lawn mowing; window washing; snow shoveling; a family nature walk, story reading/telling, etc.
- ✓ **Give the gift that gives back. Now more than ever local non-profits can use your support.** Make a donation to an organization that you or your family/friends support in their honor or give a membership at a local food cooperative.
- ✓ Support our local artisans —buy locally made pottery, crafts etc.

[www.CassCountySustainability.com](http://www.CassCountySustainability.com)

*\*Remember: recycle gift boxes & wrapping paper—save ribbons, gift boxes & wrapping paper/sacks in good shape for next year's gift— and pass along these ideas!*

*Note: neither foil wrapping paper nor ribbons are recyclable.*