



Make Pittsburgh Even Cooler in December:

Green your holiday celebration

Go green for the holidays by reusing paper to wrap gifts or putting gifts in reusable boxes or bags. You can also switch your holiday lights to Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) or give a donation to the planet as a gift and tell your loved ones why.

- **Reuse brown paper or newspaper to wrap gifts, and/or put gifts in reusable boxes or bags:**

According to the Clean Air Council, the U.S. generates an extra five million tons of trash during the holidays – 80 percent of this is wrapping paper and shopping bags alone! This holiday, take simple steps to reduce what goes into our landfills by reusing paper and putting gifts in reusable containers. It's good for the planet and your pocketbook, saving two pounds of global warming pollution for every six gifts you wrap and about \$78 a year.

- Draw decorations and messages directly on your brown paper or newspaper;
- Create a festive collage with things you find in magazines, comics, or even in nature;
- Go no-waste by wrapping your gift in a new scarf, hat, blanket, reusable box, or bag;
- Use shredded newspaper or even new socks – anything soft, recycled, and/or reusable – to cushion your gifts for shipping.

- **Switch your holiday lights to Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs):**

Switching to LED holiday lights is an easy way to save energy and money for the holidays. They last up to 10 years and use 90 percent less energy than old type lights. While most people pay at least \$5 every season to use outdated lights, you'll spend just 45 cents! Buying LEDs costs a bit more but you'll make up the cost in a few years, meaning savings for years to come. This season, many retailers are offering specials and trade-ins of the old lights for modern LEDs.

With the electricity you save, you'll also reduce global warming pollution. Replacing your strand of 300 mini outdated incandescent bulbs can save 42 pounds of carbon pollution per year.

- **Give a donation to the planet to the one you love – and tell him or her why:**

With a donation to the planet, you can benefit our world for generations to come. There are many organizations that are helping to reduce global warming pollution; can we (im)modestly suggest PennFuture, the coordinator of The Black and Gold City Goes Green.

- Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) – <http://my.pennfuture.org/donate>
- Other members of the Pittsburgh Climate Initiative – http://gbapgh.org/Programs_CI.asp
- Or choose from this list – <http://www.usclimatenetwork.org/about-us/members>

- **Track Your Progress**

Go to our website (www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com) and fill in the tracking form so we can measure how much we're all cutting our heat-trapping gases. No computer? No problem. Call us at 412-258-6680 or fill in one of the postcards available throughout the city.