**Did you know?**

* Americans throw away 25% more trash during Thanksgiving to New Year’s than any other time of year. This extra garbage amounts to about 25 million tons of trash.
* If every family in the U.S. reused just 2 feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.
* The 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high. If we each sent one card less or recycled our Christmas cards, we’d save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.

**How to Help the Planet Have a Healthier Holiday Season**

* **Recycle Your Holiday Lights and Extension Cords.**
	+ UCCDG Caring for Creation Team is setting up a donation box inside the Church’s west entrance. We can accept Italian mini-lights, traditional lights, extension cords, rope lights, LED lights.  Lights can be in working or non-working condition, from any holiday! Those that are donated will be taken to SCARCE.org office, which offers recycling of these items year-round.
	+ Many of our nearby villages and towns will also be participating in the 2015-16 holiday light and extension cords recycling program. More information on drop locations and dates will be posted on the Events page of the [UCCDG-Caring\_For\_Creation.weebly.com](http://uccdg-caring-for-creation.weebly.com/) website starting in December.
* **Recycle/Reuse Your Live Christmas Trees:**
	+ Nearly all of our local villages and town will pick up live Christmas trees and shred them to make ground-cover for use in our parks and landscape projects. More information about drop-off locations and dates will be posted on the Events page of our [website](http://uccdg-caring-for-creation.weebly.com/) in late December through early January.
	+ Strip the needles from your Christmas tree branches or wreaths and use them as naturally pine-scented potpourri.
	+ Christmas tree needles can also be used to restore balance in a compost heap – their acid balances out alkaline things, like wood ash.
* **Wrapping Paper Galore!**
	+ Use wrapping paper that can be recycled. Avoid those made of foil or metallic papers which are not recyclable.
	+ Shred pretty colored wrapping paper and use it as colorful but protective packaging around future gifts.
	+ Thin wrapping paper also is great for making [origami](http://www.origami-fun.com/easy-origami.html) - a great idea to keep the kids busy on a cold snowy winter night.
	+ Save your paper wrapping paper and use it for cleaning windows in the spring instead of wasting paper towels.
* **Tips for Holiday Cards:**
	+ If you send holiday cards, buy recycled-content cards and envelopes or send your holiday greetings in electronic form. E-cards can be enhanced with sound and animation and they create no physical waste.
	+ Recycle Christmas cards into neat gift tags or Christmas tree decorations. Another fun project to do with your kids.
* **Shipping a gift?**
	+ Reuse the foam peanuts from another package, or use unbuttered popcorn for packing. Return unwanted Styrofoam packing PEANUTS to your local UPS Store.
* **Buy rechargeable batteries and a battery charger** for all of your gadgets and toys to help reduce the number of regular batteries headed for landfill sites.

**By taking these simple steps, you’ll give our Earth a gift while enjoying the Holiday Season!**