



'Tis the Season to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle'

During the holidays there is a **25%** increase in trash added to the nation's landfills, between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Uneaten food from seasonal celebrations, gift wrap, and packaging adds an extra million tons of garbage to New Jersey landfills during this time of year.



Almost 3 billion greeting cards, wrapping paper, gift bags, and decorations end up in the nation's landfills each holiday season. Please remember to recycle gift boxes and corrugated boxes, tissue paper, Kraft paper bags, gift catalogs, junk mail, and envelopes.

Please no: Foil paper, bows/ribbons, greeting cards, gift bags, paper tubes from gift wrap, or Styrofoam.

Reuse greeting cards for gift wrap or art projects, and save gift bags for reuse. Bring **used** packaging peanuts, foam blocks and other packaging materials to local mailing centers. Try your local UPS Store or Mail Boxes ETC 800-828-2214. The average American receives more than **500** pieces of junk mail each year, about a tree for every household! Halt the delivery of junk mail by calling companies directly, or visit <http://www.41pounds.org> or <http://www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailinglist/>



Recycle electronics such as televisions, cell phones, laptops and computers at the Ocean County Northern and Southern Recycling Centers. Also, check with your local public works department to see if they have a program. Try local charities and nonprofits to donate unwanted gifts or decorations after the holidays. You may also sell, give away or trade household items for free on the **Ocean County 2Good2Waste Internet Exchange**. Bring Christmas lights to the Lowes customer service desk (or designated bins near the entrance) for proper recycling, now until December 24th.



If you prefer a natural tree to an artificial tree, consider one that can be replanted later. Look for ways to compost your tree instead of sending it to the landfill. Recycle Christmas trees into wood chips by bringing them to the Ocean County Northern and Southern Recycling Centers during regular business hours. Also check with your local public works. Residents may also drop off trees at various Ocean County parks locations from December 26th through January 31st. Call or visit their website for a list of locations.



Americans waste **28 billion pounds** of food each year, roughly **100 pounds** per person! Instead of trashing it, why not compost it? To learn more about composting organic kitchen and yard waste go to the Ocean County Department of Solid Waste Management's website. **28% of landfilled materials is organic**



Recycle oil from turkey fryers or holiday cooking. Residents may bring 5 gallons of cooking grease per household per day to the county's two recycling centers.

For more ideas on waste reduction during the holidays and year 'round go to:



NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection [http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/Trimming our Holiday 2017 update.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/Trimming%20our%20Holiday%202017%20update.pdf)



US Environmental Protection Agency <http://www3.epa.gov/region09/waste/recycling/index.html>



Earth911 <http://earth911.org/>



The UPS Store <https://www.theupsstore.com/>



Ocean County Parks & Recreation <http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/OC Parks/> 1-877-OC Parks (1-877-627-2757).



2Good2Waste www.2Good2Waste.com/oceancountynj/

Ocean County Dept. of Solid Waste Management <http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/recycle> 732-506-5047



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