

Top Tips for a Greener Christmas

Christmas is a bumper time for rubbish and a great time to start thinking “green.” Use these top tips to help you on your way.

- **Make Space for New Gifts**

Getting ready for Christmas normally means tidying the house and making room for new gifts and toys. Why not donate old items to charity shops or sell them on websites such as www.preloved.co.uk. If you're clearing out furniture then visit the Cheshire Furniture Reuse Forum www.cfrf.org.uk to find out how you can donate your old furniture for use in community projects.

- **A Present with a Difference**

If you've got a friend who seems to have it all and are stuck for a gift idea then look no further, Oxfam Unwrapped charity gifts make a difference to the world's poorest people and are a totally unique take on the traditional Christmas present. From donkeys to grain sheds, emergency communications to camels, Oxfam Unwrapped initiatives help people who need it the most. Visit www.oxfam.org.uk or your local Oxfam shop for more information.

- **Gift Wrap**

When choosing wrapping paper for Christmas, try not to buy shiny paper as it's made of plastic film so not recyclable. You can make the most of used paper by saving it for wrapping future presents. Or, why not use gift bags as these can be used again and again.

- **Control Your Portions**

Christmas and New Year are perfect times for dinner parties and you may need to cook for a large number of people. Use the Love Food Hate Waste Perfect Portions planner for advice on how to measure portions, saving you money and unnecessary food waste. Visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/perfect_portions

- **Compost Your Peelings**

A third of your kitchen waste can be composted! Fill your kitchen caddy with those Christmas roast potato peelings, general vegetable and fruit peelings, teabags, paper towels and eggshells and add this good waste to your compost bin. For more information about home composting and low cost home compost bins visit www.recyclenow.com/home_composting

- **Keep Tabs on Use By Dates**

Our most perishable (and often most expensive) Christmas food is kept in the fridge, so keep tabs on their use-by dates - the freezer may be the option for food you won't get round to eating in time and you can enjoy them well after Christmas is over. To find out more useful tips on the storage of food, tantalising Christmas recipes and advice on portioning this holiday season, visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

- **Recycle All Your Christmas Rubbish**

We could use an extra 750 million bottles and glass containers, and 500 million drinks cans during Christmas – all which can be recycled.

Make use of your kerbside facility and recycle all the jars, bottles and cans that you use over the festive period. Check you collection calendar for any changes to your collection day or visit www.chester.gov.uk for more information.

- **Make a Green New Years Resolution**

And finally, make a New Year's resolution that you can keep this year – it could be to recycle more, buy local produce, use less energy in the home or to walk or cycle those short journeys. Every action helps!

For more information about environmental initiatives in Tarvin visit the new Tarvin Environment Group's website at www.tarvinenvironment.org.uk