

# REAPS READER

Have you helped the environment today?

Did you know that REAPS has over 30 FREE presentations? You can email us at [garten@reaps.org](mailto:garten@reaps.org) or download one at [www.reaps.org](http://www.reaps.org) or giving us a call at 250-561-7327. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Staying Green for the Holidays

The holidays can be a time of year when we produce the most waste. We can learn to scale that back with some simple tips:

**Avoid excessive gift wrapping.** Don't over-wrap gifts to your loved ones. Instead, wrap boxes together, or put the gifts inside reusable gift bags. This makes it easier for everyone.

**Give the gift of less waste.** Don't focus on material items—remember, you can also gift services as well. Consider signing that loved one up for ballet lessons or cover their travel expenses for a trip. Americans produce an extra 1 million tons of trash during the holidays!

**Use a real Christmas tree.** Not only are real Christmas trees nicer to look at, more authentic, and add a lovely fragrance to the home, they are also better for the environment. After the holidays have come and gone, you can compost the tree. Fake trees, by contrast, are plastic which are less environmentally friendly to manufacture.

**Use LED Christmas lights.** These are now available from all retailers, and use about 90% less energy than standard lights.