

# REAPS READER

Have you helped the environment today?

## TIPS ON MAKING CHRISTMAS GREENER!!!

### **Christmas Tree**

Pick your tree up from an ecologically sustainable supplier, making sure that the roots are still attached to the tree. This means that when Christmas is over, you can replant your tree in your garden, and re-use the following year. Or an artificial tree can be used again and again, but ensure that it's made from natural materials that can be recycled when you need to. If you need to dispose of your Christmas tree, you can bring it to the landfill where it can be either mulched and composted (reducing space in the landfill).

### **Presents**

Gifts such as DVD players and coffee makers generate 780,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases last year, even before they were unwrapped and used due to fuel consumption during production, transportation and raw materials.

Items made from natural or recycled products are big business these days, and there's plenty of choice available.

### **Decorations**

Naturally made decorations such as holly and mistletoe will give your home a traditional festive feel, and can be composted in January. Paper decorations, if packed away carefully, can be re-used the following year.

### **Wrapping**

Use home-made clothes, newspaper or last years wrapping paper, try decorated paper lunch bags, or even decorated a cardboard box will help in minimizing the paper used during the holidays.

### **Christmas Dinner**

Shop local for your Christmas dinner ingredients to reduce food miles and help support local businesses. Ensure that your turkey and other meat have been kept in free range conditions.

### **Energy**

- Turn your Christmas lights off during the day and when you go to bed
- If your Christmas lights are on, turn off your main room lights
- Extra activity and people in your home will mean it is easier to keep warm - turn your thermostat down a degree or two

Turn your heating off when you're cooking the Christmas dinner - heat from the kitchen will keep surrounding areas warm.



In partnership with Science World's Scientist and Innovators in the School (SIS) program, REAPS school program is supported by the Program for the Awareness and Learning of Science (BC PALS) thanks to the province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education.