

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP #47



DID YOU KNOW there are steps you can take to make the holiday season an “Eco-Cool” event that is good for the environment?

A recent report noted that the amount of household waste in the United States generally increases by 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day from 4 million tons to 5 million tons. Here are a number of measures you can take to lessen the amount of trash we produce:

- Buy cards made from recycled paper and printed in non-toxic inks.
- Choose cards printed on white stock without metallic or plastic coatings.
- Consider substituting postcards for cards that require envelopes or use e-mail.
- Reuse the fronts of holiday cards as gift tags.
- Avoid foil and plastic embossed paper because it uses more resources in the manufacturing process.
- Store leftovers in reusable containers
- Buy food gifts with as little packaging as possible.
- Bring your own bags on shopping trips.
- Make a decision to patronize local shops, particularly in areas you can walk or bike to.
- Buy a tree grown locally to save energy associated with transportation.
- Buy a living tree you can plant outside or keep as a houseplant.
- If not, recycle your tree through the Town of Centreville’s curbside recycling program (www.townofcentreville.org) for schedule.

Always remember that what we do on land affects the Corsica River and the Chesapeake Bay – www.corsicariver.com