

Take Time to Make Memories

Spend time Together. Nature hikes with siblings and parents create time for conversation and sharing and can be a strategic way to get kids out from under foot while food is being prepared.

Some ideas for your family to try:

- Crafting homemade gifts
- Trim a tree with popcorn, cranberries and/or pinecones—wildlife enjoy these treats during or after the holidays
- Caroling
- Preparing a family recipe together and do it again next year

Holiday projects are remembered fondly so don't worry messing up the kitchen or getting everything just right. The shared experience has priceless value.

Love to Shop? Choose Re-Used

Gently used items make wonderful zero-waste gifts. Buying things that have been used before means that your purchase doesn't require additional natural resources or energy use.

If you are hesitant to give used gifts, for fear of being considered "cheap," here are some ideas:

- Include a message explaining why you value the practice of reuse so highly.
- Select gifts with care.
- Personalize your gift with an appliqué, initials, sports team logo, or adding craft items to a used picture frame.
- Consider giving antiques, vintage items.
- Your buck goes a lot further when purchasing refurbished tools and electronics.

Some Shopping Places to Get You Started:

Antiques & Collectibles:
Downtown Coburg & Springfield

Little Shop of Hoarders

Rileys Second Hand

Trash 'n Treasures

Art Supplies:
MECCA

Building Supplies:
BRING Planet Improvement Center

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore

ElecTech:
NextStep

Fashionista:
Buffalo Exchange

Variety:
Goodwill

St Vincent de Paul

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle for the Holidays

Item	Reduce	Reuse	Recycle
Gift Boxes	Decorate cereal, shoe or other boxes instead of buying new.	Flatten gift boxes neatly for easy storage and reuse.	Recyclable curbside and at Lane County recycling stations.
Ribbons and Bows	Reuse last year's bows. Make bows out of yarn, dried flowers, video/audio tape, or Mylar food wrappers.	Save ribbons and bows in a sturdy box (so bows will not get crushed) for best reuse next year.	Not recyclable. Reduce and reuse gift decorations in year 'round gift giving. Donate to thrift stores.
Wrapping Paper	Use comics, maps, posters and cloth wrapping. If you purchase wrapping paper, make sure it has recycled content—read the label.	Use reusable gift bags and boxes. Open gifts carefully, with reuse in mind. Fold neatly and store.	Recyclable curbside and at Lane County recycling stations. Not recyclable: foil coated or plastic coated papers, gift bags and ribbons.
Greeting Cards	Save money and paper with postcard or email greetings. If you purchase cards, be sure to find post consumer recycled content cards.	Reuse greeting cards as next year's postcard greetings, gift tags or make ornaments and crafts with them. Donate to MECCA.	Recyclable as mixed paper curbside or at Lane County recycling stations after plastic parts and foil are removed.
Gift Tags	Write the name on the wrapping itself, make from last years cards.	Reuse gift wrap, cards or favorite drawings to make new gift tags.	Paper tags are recyclable as mixed paper after string, ribbon, plastic and foil is removed.
Packing peanuts & Bubble Wrap	Request the least amount of packaging. Pack your gifts with old wrapping paper, shredded or natural fiber packing materials.	Reuse peanuts for your shipping. St.Vincent DePaul and most pack-and-ship stores take peanuts for reuse.	Recycling not necessary. Highly reusable and desired by Pack-and-ship stores, St.Vincent de Paul and various arts and ebay retailers.
Block Styrofoam Packaging	Request minimal packaging, natural fiber packaging that is compostable, or paper pulp packaging that is recyclable.	Save flats & scraps for craft projects or future shipping.	Recyclable at St.Vincent de Paul. Individuals may drop off for free.
Catalogs	Request removal from mailing list at time of order.	Share with friends and neighbors if interested.	Recyclable as mixed paper curbside or at Lane County sites.
Paper Plates, Cups, etc.	Use durable, washable table ware. Call 541-682-2059 to borrow durable picnic dish ware.	Paper cups and plates aren't very reusable. Use as few as possible.	Not recyclable. Please reduce or reuse. May be compostable but beware of plastic liners.
Plastic Cups, Forks, etc.	Use durable, washable, table and silver ware. Call 682-2059 to borrow durable picnic dish ware.	Many brands of plastic can be washed and reused.	Not recyclable. Borrow place settings from a neighbor or friend.
Christmas Trees	Decorate a live tree in your yard. Bring a potted tree or evergreen bows inside to decorate.	Reuse trimmings from local fir trees to fashion a Christmas tree, swags and wreaths.	Compostable. Ask your garbage company if they recycle trees, put branches in yard debris cart, or watch the news for charity or scouts offering tree pickup/recycling.



Don't Let the Holidays Go to Waste!

Lane County Public Works
Waste Management Division

Tips for Reducing Waste During the Holidays

On an average day, most of us create roughly four pounds of waste. During the holidays, the feasting and shopping, packaging and wrapping can add up to be an added strain on precious resources.

Sometimes the most treasured gifts we can give are our time, love and energy. In the spirit of giving, we've gathered some holiday ideas here that create less waste and more memories.

free! Volunteers provide much needed services. Volunteering has been shown to increase or preserve physical and mental health. Volunteers tend to feel happier and live longer than those who do not volunteer.

Finding Local Volunteer opportunities is easy. Visit www.211lane.org

Volunteer as a Family, Team or Work Group

Share the joy! Non-volunteers report they are more likely to serve if a trusted friend asks them to. Invite your friends and relatives to volunteer with you!

Include children. People who volunteered as youth are twice as likely to volunteer as adults than those who didn't experience the 'glow' as kids.

Time, enthusiasm and skill are valuable gifts. And, they're waste-



less is best

Make Good Use of Leftover Holiday Food

Food waste now represents the single largest component of Municipal Solid Waste reaching American landfills and incinerators. According to an annual statewide waste composition study performed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), more than 450,000 TONS of food waste enter Oregon landfills and incinerators each year—nearly 10% of that goes straight to Short Mountain Landfill right here in Lane County!

Send extra food home with guests. Have a supply of reused containers on hand or ask guests to bring their own.

Many holiday foods freeze well. Make sure leftovers are sealed up tight so you can enjoy them months later.

Use reusable place settings and cloth napkins. Instead of Plastic or Paper plates, cups and utensils and paper napkins, make a family tradition of clearing the table together. You can borrow up to 100 place settings from Lane County's Reusable Dish ware Program at www.LaneCounty.org/EventRecyclingBinsandDurables

Have food to donate? Contact the Eugene Mission at 541.344.3251 or Food for Lane County at 541.343.2822

Give the Gift of an Enjoyable Experience

Give a gift that both children and adults will remember long after the snow has melted—the gift of an event, trip or other activity.

Tickets to a college or professional ball game, a play, a concert or a movie is unforgettable.

Classes and lessons:

- Art or cooking classes
- Furniture refinishing class
- Music and vocal lessons

Local Experiences:

- Emerald City Roller Girls family fun
- Eugene Parks and Rec ballet, yoga
- MECCA art classes and crafty parties
- Science Factory 'Edutainment'
- Willamalane *the home of 'Splash'*
- Willamette Pass ski & snowboarding

Travel is a great gift. Trips can be half day, all day or longer. Children remember time spent with relatives and the adventure of travel.

The overwhelming majority of folks who receive dining gift certificates report they would welcome that type of gift again.



Give the Gift of Helpful Service

Are you handy? Can you sew? Write a good resume? For those of us that aren't or can't, the gift of mending clothes, repairing a leaky faucet, or updating a resume would be MOST welcomed and appreciated! Some folks would truly love the gift of raking leaves, lawn mowing, dog walking, childcare, respite elder care, or home cooking.

Children love a day-off from chores or extended bedtime coupons, or a maybe a one time, super duper room cleaning by a grown-up.

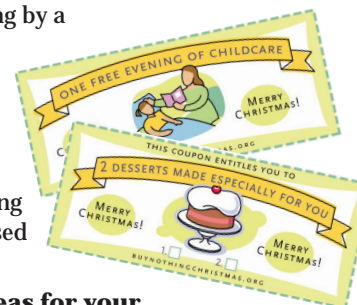
Several free online templates exist for making your own gift coupons or you can free-style it using any number of reused materials.

Some coupon ideas for your services:

- Candlelit dinner
- Child care
- Lessons in baking, a hobby or craft
- Massage or back rub
- Trip to the nearest State Park

Some examples of services you can purchase and give include:

- Computer tune-up or diagnosis
- Diaper service
- Green fees
- Gym membership
- Hair cut or trip to a spa
- Housekeeping
- Internet service
- Language or music lessons
- Membership to a museum or aquarium
- Newspaper or movie subscription
- Oil change or tune up
- Online magazine subscription
- Passes to museum or special exhibit
- Service memberships like AAA
- Sports instruction (ie. Golf or Skiing Lesson)
- Vegetarian meals delivered
- Yard Service



Purchase Gift Certificates from Waste Free Non-Profits

A gift certificate from Bring's Planet Improvement Center can help a dear one finish a remodeling project. NextStep's Springfield and Eugene ReUse stores sell gift certificates that allow your loved ones to get the refurbished electronic items that they want. MECCA Money or a membership from Materials Exchange Center for Community Arts, allows creative folks on your list to craft sustainably and use the studio space and tools available.



Put Unused Electronics Back to Work



Have you looked in *that* drawer or closet lately? Chances are you have many

unused personal electronics still sitting around since the latest 'upgrade.' Those items still have life in them but the longer they sit, the more likely they will have to be recycled rather than refurbished. Don't delay. Donate unwanted electronics right away. Better yet, give the gift of electronics removal to friends or relatives. Help folks donate* TVs, CPUs, Laptops and Game Consoles right after the holidays. Put these valuable items back into action serving our local community through job training opportunities, technology grants for local schools and at risk families.

**With full knowledge and permission of the donor, of course.*



Master Recyclers bridge the gap between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce solid waste at home, work, and

play. Lane County Master Recycler Volunteers provide more than 2000 hours of waste prevention education to residents, businesses and events each year.

www.LaneCounty.org/MasterRecyclers

Artful ReUse Ideas for the Holidays

The holidays were made for crafting!

Scrap crafts are far more fun and inventive and they don't require any shopping! Stamps made from potatoes (cut a potato in half and carve a shape on the flat side, dip in paint and decorate paper grocery sacks to make gift wrap or to use as gift bags). Make a beautiful holiday wreath

using old holiday cards. Make bows out of used paper, snowflakes out of six-pack holders, it's endless.

For craft ideas shown in this brochure, templates, and other resources, visit www.LaneCounty.org/LessIsBest

