



ECO FRIENDLY HOLIDAY GREETINGS

There are 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the U.S., which is enough to fill a football field 10 stories high (approximately 50,000 cubic yards of paper). Annual trash from cards, gift-wrap and shopping bags totals 4 million tons, all for a few days per year. This season, leave smaller footprints by protecting our environment, making every step count.

Send holiday greetings to family and friends via e-mail. If you prefer sending hand-written notes, make your own cards with paper you already have. Look for holiday cards printed on recycled paper. Eliminate envelope waste by sending postcards or folding and sealing notes so you can address them on the outside. Holiday recycling helps you “Be the Solution”.

6 ways to recycle holiday cards

1. **Decor** — show them off by building a house of cards.
2. **Place cards** — transform them into place cards.
3. **Post cards** — recycle old holiday cards and make them into post cards.
4. **Gift tags** — creativity—a hole punch, ribbon and scissors are all you need.
5. **Old to new** — recycle into a new holiday card or donate them to a charity.
6. **Decorations** — make tree ornaments and chain garlands.

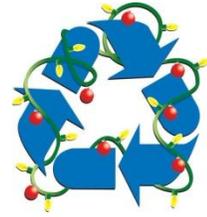
To reuse or recycle holiday greeting cards into gift tags simply cut a gift tag shape out of the front of cards. Look for blank sides to write a new message. Then punch a hole ready for twine, wool or ribbon. Start a New Year’s tradition with family and friends.

To Donate Cards Year Round: Call: (877) 977-SJRC (7572)

Mail to:

St. Jude’s Ranch for Children
Recycled Card Program
100 St. Jude’s Street
Boulder City, NV 89005

St. Jude’s Ranch for Children (operated by [Kids’ Corp](#)) recycles used greeting cards and creates new holiday and greeting cards for any occasion. The result is a beautiful new card made by children and volunteers. Note: They do not accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting cards. To mail large quantities in the least expensive way, use the United States Post Office in a Flat Rate Box (available at the Post Office), which holds up to 70 pounds.



Unwrap the 3R's (Reduce, Repurpose, Recycle)

Save gift bags and ribbons to reuse throughout the year. You can also recycle the boxes. As for packaging materials, you can recycle any paper and cardboard.

Foam peanuts are reusable and accepted at most UPS and Packing stores. Please call ahead to make sure they will accept them. You can also save them for reuse yourself. If you are a retailer who would like to participate, go to www.loosefillpackaging.com/hotline.

When shopping, choose gift items with minimal packaging. Clear plastic packaging that comes with toys, games, and other such items must go into the trash.

Helping people and our planet. If you have outgrown toys and clothing, consider donating them to groups such as the Salvation Army, Goodwill, Volunteers of America or other organizations that reuse them.

Dealing with e-waste. Discarded electronics (computers, copiers, fax machines, printers and monitors) may be donated to a local nonprofit, parent-teacher association or disposed of at these [certified locations](#) in the South Bay.

Buy rechargeable batteries for toys, cameras and gadgets. When those batteries no longer hold a charge, call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at 800-8-battery or go to their webpage at www.rbrc.org for the nearest battery-recycling drop off.

RESOURCES:

<http://www.resourcefulschools.org/fun-recycling-facts/did-you-know/holiday>

<http://www.sheknows.com/living/articles/979037/decorative-holiday-recycling>

http://pages.uoregon.edu/recycle/green_holiday_text.htm

<http://almostneverclever.wordpress.com/2011/12/13/christmas-card-gift-tags/>

www.littleecofootprints.com