

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Don't Toss Out Those Old Holiday Lights – Recycle Them Instead!

As the festive season draws near, many of us eagerly unpack boxes of holiday decorations, including strings of twinkling lights that have adorned our homes for years. But what if you find a set that's no longer working or impossibly tangled? Don't throw them away—recycle them!

Residents can drop off old holiday lights for recycling at the City of Gainesville's Public Works offices at **405 NW 39th Avenue**, through the end of January. Accepted items include strings of incandescent lights, LED lights, "icicle" lights, light wires, and attached bulbs. Please remove light casings, such as plastic candy cane shells, before bringing them in for recycling. No set of lights is too tangled for recycling!



Residents may also recycle old holiday lights year-round at any one of the Alachua County Drop-Off sites. **For a complete list of drop-off locations, visit gainesvillefl.gov/WasteWizard.**

Switching from old incandescent lights to new LED lights can lead to big savings on your electric bill. LED lights consume 80-90% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and can last up to 100,000 hours, compared to only 3,000 hours for incandescent lights.

And remember NOT to place holiday lights in your home recycle bins.

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