The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Reduce Waste During the Holidays

This magical time of year brings joy, warmth, and family fun, but it can be overwhelming at times, too. To reduce the stress of the holidays, we often select the convenience of disposable items, which leads to us generating almost 50% more trash in December.

However, reducing your holiday waste might save you money and make your events more memorable, all while helping preserve our environment. **Here are some quick tips for making less waste during the holidays.**

- **Gift delicious experiences:** Instead of buying cheap goods online, you can delight your loved ones with unique experiences such as taking them out to a new restaurant, gifting them a painting or cooking class, or offering to sponsor part of a trip.

- **Shop used:** When selecting gifts, remember that nearly everything you'd like to get someone can be purchased secondhand or pre-owned – even online and on the biggest retail websites. Doing this reduces the environmental burden and creates opportunities for buying less mass-produced and often higher-quality items.

- **Opt for durables:** If you're hosting a holiday party, use real plates and cutlery to make your guests feel more at home. After the meal, the more guests you have, the more helping hands there are to wash dishes, and everyone wants to feel useful!

Reducing waste by embracing thoughtful gifts and your thriving community will help you truly make it the most wonderful time of the year. Follow ZeroWasteGNV on Facebook and Instagram for more holiday waste reduction tips.

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