

# The Recycler 2024

## November

### Thanksgiving Sustainability



#### Reducing our carbon footprint during the holiday season

- Instead of throwing away your Thanksgiving leftovers, freeze them, compost them, or donate them to local food banks!
- Carpool with a friend when traveling home for break.
- If you do go home, make sure to unplug all appliances in your campus living space that are not in use to avoid wasting energy.

#### Did you know?

Approximately 204 million pounds of turkey are consumed on Thanksgiving Day in the United States with an estimated 35% of that food going uneaten.

Thanksgiving food waste produces greenhouse gases equivalent to 1.1 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

The EPA estimates that household waste increases by more than 25% between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, resulting in about 1 million extra tons of waste each week.



#### Easy green tips

- Set up a recycling station at your gathering for bottles, cans, and recyclable items.
- Try to have your family use reusable plates, cutlery, and other items during your meals to avoid generating waste.

## December

### Winter Energy Efficiency

#### Keep yourself warm and your energy bill low

- Open curtains on the south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn the thermostat back to save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills.



#### Shocking Holiday Waste Facts

- In the U.S., it's estimated that around 4.6 million pounds of wrapping paper are used each holiday season. This is equivalent to about 2.3 million miles of wrapping paper, or **enough to circle the Earth 92 times**.
- The average American household spends an additional \$20 on energy to power Christmas lights, and the U.S. as a whole spends over \$2 billion annually on lighting displays.

### Sustainable New Years 2025 Resolutions

- Switch to reusable products! This would include reusable shopping bags, straws, water bottles, etc.
- Choose to ride your bike whenever you can when traveling to near-by locations.
- Educate yourself about sustainability.
- Only use the stairs and not escalators
- Unplug anything not in use.



Office of  
**Campus Sustainability**

**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY**

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#### Restore Event

**Nov. 14**  
**12-2pm and 4-6pm**

Stop by to find a gift or two for friends or family! Or find some fun holiday decorations!

### Sustainable Gift Guide



- Shop locally when looking for gifts for a loved one.
- Thrift clothing or purchase second-hand items.
- Purchase eco-friendly wrapping paper.
- When purchasing gifts, look for items that are not in plastic packaging.



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