



ZERO WASTE HOLIDAY GUIDE

Check out these ideas for a more sustainable season.

Reduce waste without reducing fun



- Wrap presents in repurposed materials such as paper bags flipped inside out, reusable bags or fabric.
- Give local experiences instead of stuff. Visit local businesses to purchase gift cards for future activities or take-out meals.
- Give purchasing preference to gifts that are reusable, made locally, or are made from recycled material.
- Include rechargeable batteries with presents that require batteries.

Holiday recycling tips

- If you celebrate Christmas, compost your Christmas tree when you are finished with it. Cut into four feet long pieces and bundle with twine. Place beside



- or in your yard waste cart. No flocked trees and remove all decorations.
- Recycle wrapping paper or save it to reuse. Most wrapping paper is recyclable. Paper that is NOT recyclable includes foil or paper that is mixed with plastic or glitter.
- Find out where unusual items such as used cooking oil can be recycled. BellevueWA.gov/recycle-more.
- Review your recycling guide to know where items go: BellevueWA.gov/recycle-at-home

Compost holiday food waste



- Check out this guide to reducing food waste and storing holiday food to make it last longer: BellevueWA.gov/recyclefoodwaste
- Compost your food scraps! All food is accepted in your outdoor collection cart including meat, dairy and items like turkey bones. Encourage your property to add a composting cart if your apartment or condo does not have one. Email recycle@bellevuewa.gov to discuss composting options in Bellevue.

Additional Resources



- More eco-friendly holiday ideas can be found at KingCounty.gov/green-holidays
- Check out these crafts kids can make for gifts: Kids.NationalGeographic.com/explore/crafts/



ZERO WASTE HOLIDAY CRAFTS

Use these ideas to make zero waste decorations.

Magazine Tree



Use unwanted mail, such as catalogs to make a holiday tree! Fold the top corner down until it lines up with the inside of the magazine. Fold again to make the remaining part of the page flush with the inside of the magazine. Fold the bottom corner up to make the bottom of the tree flat. Turn the page and repeat!

Reduce receiving unwanted mail in the first place by removing your name from junk mail lists:

BellevueWA.gov/reduce-junk-mail

Box Trees

Cut tree shapes in cardboard boxes to make decorative trees. Color, decorate, or leave them plain! When you no longer want them, place them in your recycling bin to be turned into new paper. Speaking of cardboard boxes, remember to break down and flatten all boxes before placing in your outdoor recycling container.



Popcorn and Cranberry Garland



Use a sewing needle to thread popcorn and cranberries on bamboo floss. Wrap around your tree or hang up in your home. This fun-to-make decoration is compostable after the season.

Cinnamon Dough Ornaments



Put ½ cup of ground cinnamon in a bowl and slowly mix in ½ cup of applesauce. Keep stirring until it turns into dough. Use extra cinnamon to roll out ¼ inch dough. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes. Use a skewer or toothpick to carefully make a hole at the top of each ornament. Place shapes on wire racks and allow to dry at room temperature for several days until hard. Use twine or repurposed ribbon to turn into an ornament. Save or compost after the season.

Orange Ornaments and Air Fresheners

Use these as ornaments, garlands or in centerpieces as a scented air freshener. Use a toothpick to poke patterns in oranges. Push cloves into any of the holes. After the holiday season, compost oranges and save ribbon to reuse.



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6932 (voice) or email recycle@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.