# Festive Season Waste and Recycling Tips

*‘Tis the season to be jolly... but when the festivities end what can be done with items from the clean up?*

| Christmas Items                      | Options                        | Tips                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Christmas cards                      | → Recycling bin
                              | → Drop off recycling centre   | Cards can be recycled even if they have staples or different objects on them. Try e-cards as a no waste option. |
| Live Christmas trees                 | → Green waste recycling
                              | → Landfill                    | Buy a potted one that can be used each year. Live trees can be composted at a green waste centre. |
| Christmas trees – artificial big or small. | → Give away or reuse
                              | → Reuse
                              | → Landfill                    | Artificial trees are generally not made from suitable recyclable materials and need to go to landfill if you can’t find a new home for it. |
| Christmas lights and displays        | → Give away or sell
                              | → Reuse
                              | → Landfill                    | Use solar lights where you can. Christmas lights are not suitable for recycling. |
| Christmas tinsel                     | → Give away or sell
                              | → Reuse facility
                              | → Landfill                    | Tinsel can be kept and reused, but cannot be recycled. |
| Wrapping paper                       | → Recycling bin                | You don’t need to remove the sticky tape. |
| Wrapping – cellophane or foil        | → Reuse
                              | → Landfill                    | Cellophane or foil wrapping is a type of soft plastic and is not recyclable in the ACT. |
| Leftover/unwanted food               | → Compost bin
                              | → Worm farm
                              | → Feed to chickens
                              | → Landfill                    | Avoid this by pre-planning menu, portions and using a shopping list. Make sure you dispose of any food that has been contaminated or past it’s used by date. |
| Unwanted gifts                       | → Charity organisations
                              | → Re-gift
                              | → Give away/sell online
                              | → Landfill                    | If usable, give away, sell or donate to charity. Old belongings often get replaced with new things received at Christmas. |
| Disposable glasses/cups, plates/bowls or drink cans | → Recycling bin
                              | → Drop off recycling centre   | Instead, use the real thing. All rigid plastics can go in the recycling bin including plastic plates, bowls and cups. Polystyrene foam products are not recyclable and must be placed in the landfill bin. Some drink containers are eligible for a 10c refund through the Container Deposit Scheme. |
| Disposable cutlery                   | → Landfill                    | Instead, use the real thing. Cutlery is too small for the sorting plant to recover so needs to be placed in the landfill bin. |
| Oversized cardboard boxes/packaging and excess recyclables – extra glass from wine, beer, soft drink bottles, etc. | → Drop off recycling centre
                              | → Recycling bin               | If there is no room in your recycling bin at home visit your local drop off centre listed over the page. They operate just like your recycling bin at home. Visit a Container Deposit Scheme return point for a 10c refund on eligible drink containers. |
WANT TO MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS EVEN GREENER?

CHECK OUT THESE HOT SUSTAINABILITY TIPS:

- **Gift second hand items**
  There are many excellent second hand items available through op-shops and online.

- **Buy locally made or handmade**
  Canberra has a number of markets that specialise in local or handmade products (including local produce).

- **Avoid novelty items**
  Many of these items are not sustainably produced, end up in landfill and, are never or rarely used.

- **Avoid single-use plastics**
  Christmas is a good time to use the ‘good’ plates, glasses and cutlery.

- **Making a difference**
  Gift reusable coffee cups, metal straws, bamboo toothbrushes, bees-wax wraps – the list goes on.

- **Gift experiences**
  There is a huge range of experiences to suit any age or budget (tours of Canberra’s nature reserves, annual passes, cooking, painting, gardening and composting classes).

### TOO MUCH RECYCLING?

Visit these Recycling drop off centres.

- Jolley Street, Belconnen
- O’Brien Place, Gungahlin
- Baillieu Circuit, Mitchell
- Botany Street, Phillip
- Scollay Street, Tuggeranong

### CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEMES RETURN POINTS

More information at actcds.com.au

- Vinnies Belconnen
- Vinnies Dickson
- Vinnies Tuggeranong
- Fyshwick Bulk Depot
- Mitchell Bulk Depot
- Salvos Tuggeranong Square
- Salvos Phillip
- Salvos Mitchell
- Salvos Fyshwick

### WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTRES

More information at www.tccs.act.gov.au

- Mitchell Resource Management Centre
- Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre

Get involved today!

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