



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

**CITY ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS
TO HAVE A GREEN THANKSGIVING**

Every Holiday Offers Opportunities to be Green!

The holiday season begins with Thanksgiving and generates high volumes of refuse and recyclables, which is why it is so important to properly dispose of all holiday waste. By recycling and using environmentally friendly alternatives during the holiday season, the life of the landfill will be extended and the overall condition of the environment will benefit.

The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department (ESD) encourages residents to consider some of these helpful hints to have a happy and GREEN Thanksgiving holiday. ESD reminds everyone to continue using these seasonal suggestions as part of their daily commitment to help in preserving the environment.

"GREEN" THANKSGIVING TIPS:

TIP #1 – Try not to buy items with extra packaging and be sure to recycle as much of your waste as possible. Items that can be placed in your blue recycle bin include:

- aluminum pie and turkey tins (clean);
- cardboard food containers;
- glass food jars used for apple sauce, fruit juices, preserves, etc.;
- metal cans used for cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie filling, green beans, etc.;
- paper egg cartons;
- plastic juice bottles and jars;
- paper packaging and boxes;
- plastic milk and water jugs;
- soda, cider, wine, champagne, beer and other beverages in bottles and cans.

TIP #2 - Take your reusable bags with you to carry your groceries home from your local market. Shopping close to home not only conserves fuel, but fuels the local economy.

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TIP #3 - Use durable dishes and glasses instead of paper plates and disposable cups. Cloth napkins also add to the formal setting of your holiday feast.

TIP #4 - Reuse pie tins and jars to store and send home leftovers with family and friends as an alternative to throwing them away.

TIP #5 – Don't over prepare! Cooking too much not only wastes that food, but energy as well. Instead of hoarding leftovers – send some home with guests in reusable containers or try cooking less so that leftovers don't become moldy science projects in your refrigerator.

TIP #6 - Do not pour cooking oil down the drain. If you do not recycle it at the Miramar Recycling Center, this material should be absorbed with paper towels, newspaper, kitty litter, or saw dust and then placed in a plastic bag before discarding in the trash. Better yet - the City offers a cooking oil drop-off location free of charge at the Miramar Recycling Center. (Call 858-268-8971 for directions to the center and for hours of operation.)

TIP #7 - Reuse old decorations from previous years in a new way or just as new ones! Use items from your backyard and fall fabric colors to make a nice centerpiece. Any bought decorations should be environmentally friendly!

TIP #8 – Liquids of any kind are not to be disposed of in your black trash containers or blue recycling containers.

TIP #9 - When disposing of food waste, place it in a tightly knotted plastic bag to avoid decomposing odors and discourage insects and rodents. And don't forget – Put your vegetable waste in your backyard compost bin instead of the trash!

RECYCLING INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

For more information on holiday waste reduction ideas, recycling, composting or trash collection, contact the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department at 858-694-7000, or visit the ESD website at: www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services.

For more information about the City of San Diego's Grease Disposal Program, contact the Metropolitan Wastewater Department at 858-292-6484, or visit: www.sandiego.gov/mwwd

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