

Welcome to the third issue of

# THE GREEN SCENE NEWS



The Green Scene is a newsletter developed by the Climate Change Advisory Panel; a committee of concerned residents and elected officials. Together we work to encourage all residents of Perth to make our town a greener place to live, work and play by providing information and education.

## Getting ready for Christmas?

- 1) Wrap your gifts in the comic section of the newspaper, reuse gift bags, use baskets, scraps of fabric, wallpaper, feed bags, newspaper, paper bags, fabric bags, tin cans, glass jars, cardboard boxes. Decorate with magic markers, twine, wool, pillow cases, towels, blankets, scarves
- 2) Use old calendars, maps, posters. Don't use tape or use sparingly, use twine instead of ribbon, Stay away from shiny or foil wrapping.
- 3) Get the kids to be careful opening the gifts, so you can re-use the paper.
- 4) Please be sure to recycle all your wrapping paper

### Home made Gift Ideas:

- Cookies and baked goods
- Basket of in-season fruit (like oranges, figs, apples, etc.)  
Decorate the basket
- Homemade Candles



There are a number of ways that you can incorporate eco-friendly décor into your home and celebrate mindfully. Here are some ideas;

Thrift decorations - try buying second hand before buying new.

Decorate with native plant species - Poinsettias can be shipped from far away, contributing to more emissions

Use Recycled paper for wrapping and gift tags

Get creative with nature - pinecones make great decorations!

## Should You Get a Real or Artificial Christmas Tree?

Why People Love Real Christmas Trees. They Keep Festive Family Traditions Alive.



Taking a plastic tree out of storage every year isn't quite the same as heading to a Christmas tree farm or local nursery and bringing home a fresh live Christmas tree. For many people who celebrate Christmas, a genuine evergreen is a festive and romantic symbol of family, tradition, and nostalgia. In many households, it's a non-negotiable, seasonal staple whose pros far outweigh any cons.

And don't just take our word for it. A recent survey revealed that people who purchase real Christmas trees are more likely to highly value creating new holiday traditions with family than those who prefer artificial trees. In the same survey, participants said getting a Christmas tree was their number-one favorite holiday tradition growing up, and continues to be one of their favorites to experience with their own children (just behind buying presents for under the tree). So if you're on the fence, according to these survey takers, a real-deal tree is simply irreplaceable.

Do you have any Green Living tips? Let us know! Email us at [reception@perth.ca](mailto:reception@perth.ca) or call 613-267-3311.

Visit [perth.ca/thegreenscene](http://perth.ca/thegreenscene) to find out more ways that you can help the environment.





## FESTIVE FOOD PREPARATION ENERGY SAVING TIPS

We're not denying that any of these festivities are important. But we're shuddering thinking about all the extra energy that Perthites will consume in the average household over the holiday break.

The lights around the Christmas tree and plug-in decor will add to most to Perthites winter energy bill. However, many homes will also experience an energy surge in the kitchen.

Cook everything together.

**Think smart any time you turn on the oven.** For instance, when it comes to baking holiday cookies, invest in several cookie sheets so you can bake all your Grandma's sugar, peanut butter and chocolate chip cookie recipes at once. In fact, you should cook as much of the holiday meal as possible at the same time to save energy. Do not turn on the oven until all of your chopping and mixing is done and you're ready to turn on the heat. Another tip to remember is that you can typically turn off the oven the last few minutes of cooking, as the generated heat should be enough to finish the job.

### Go unplugged while cooking.

When you're considering going unplugged over the holidays – staying off the electronic devices and spending more quality time with family – remember that it's also smart to keep kitchen electronics unplugged when you're not using them. Items such as a toaster oven, air fryer and instant pot should always be unplugged so you don't waste phantom energy. Many people don't realize these items eat up standby energy when they're plugged in but not in use.

### Say "yes" to the dishwasher

Let the dishwasher clean all the holiday dishes for you this year – and have no guilt about it. An Energy Star dishwasher uses less than half as much energy as hand washing, saving approximately 5,000 gallons of water a year. An Energy Star certified dishwasher can save the average household more than \$40 a year, as they are outfitted with powerful jets that clean and sanitize dishes using less heated water than hand washing. Always operate the dishwasher efficiently. Only run it when there is a full load and let the dishes air dry by leaving the door open (or hand drying) for an extra boost in energy savings when possible.



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## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - INCANDESCENT OR LED?

Incandescent lights may have that soft, warm glow that reminds you of your childhood, but LED Christmas lights are really where it's at when it comes down to the power bill. LED lighting has hit a bit of a Christmas revolution, and that means you can get vibrant strings of Christmas lights, icicle lights, and pre-lit wreaths that are equipped with LED lights instead of incandescent, and that can go a long way when it comes to saving on the cost of powering those lights.

LED Christmas lights consume between 80 and 90 per cent less energy than their incandescent counterparts, and



they last more than three times the lifespan of your incandescent strand. Compared to 3,000 hours, LED Christmas lights last up to 100,000 hours, and they are a lot less fragile (and less dangerous) too.

## COMPOSTING TIPS FOR THE WINTER MONTHS

Recycling and compost needs to be treated a bit differently come winter. Here are some ways that you can prepare your bins during the colder months;

- Put recycling bins out the morning of pick up days (by 7am). This ensures no interference with snow bank removal.

- Green bin organic material can become a frozen and difficult for collectors to empty. Try using newspaper or 100% paper liners in your green bin during the below zero temperatures.

- Don't pack organic materials tightly in your Green Bin. This can make it difficult for the collectors to empty the bin.

- Crush cans and containers where possible. Winter weather is less likely to blow recycling out of your recycling bin, and it saves space.



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AVAILABLE ONLINE AT  
PERTH GREEN SCENE

