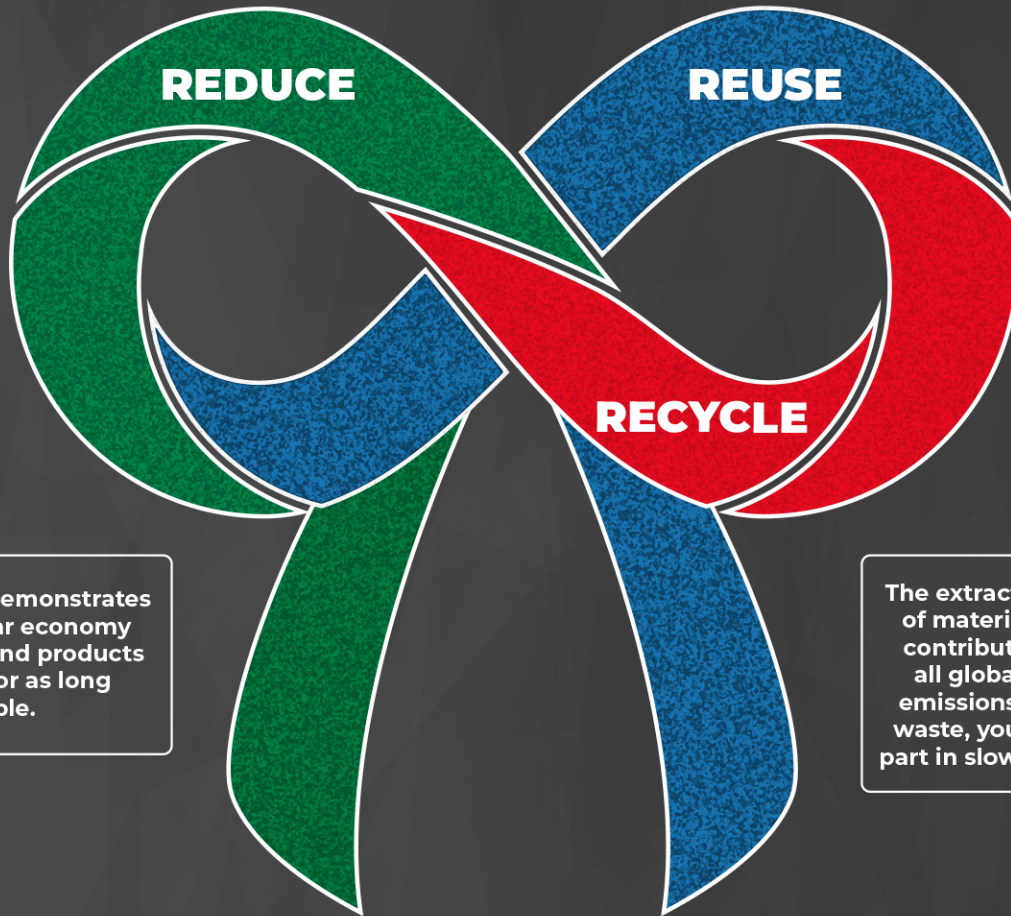




# Greening the Holidays

“Green your holidays” with these tips from EPA and make memories, not waste!



The infinity loop demonstrates the way a circular economy keeps materials and products in circulation for as long as possible.

The extraction and production of materials, fuels, and food contributes to about half of all global greenhouse gas emissions. By reducing your waste, you play an important part in slowing climate change.

## REDUCE

- Give the gift of experiences to loved ones, or consider gifting IOUs for your time (babysitting, pet sitting, or preparing a home-cooked meal).
- Prevent food waste by planning holiday meals for the right number of people. Freeze or plan to share your leftovers with others so nothing goes to waste.
- Look for products with less packaging or items that are wrapped in packaging that can be recycled or reused.
- Use ENERGY STAR LED holiday lights when decorating.
- Feeling a bit overwhelmed by your To-Do list? No need to wrap gifts ... let others know you're going green!

## REUSE

- Reuse cherished decorations from year to year.
- Shop used to keep lightly-used products out of landfills. Browse the growing used and refurbished marketplace online.
- Shop local with your reusable cloth shopping bags and multi-use water bottle.
- Reuse paper bags, newspaper, children's artwork, and fabric scraps to wrap gifts. Steer clear of gift wrap and tissue paper (especially foil or metallic!) which are typically not recyclable.
- Receive a gift that's not for you? Donate it to a thrift store, or regift it to someone who will appreciate it more.

## RECYCLE

- Give yourself the gift of knowledge and learn your local recycling rules.
- Recycle old electronics that can't be resold or donated.
- Compost or mulch your live Christmas tree. Many cities offer collection programs for trees and yard waste. Or place your tree in your garden to provide shelter for birds and smaller animals in the winter.