



# OUR EARTH

*Our Town, Our Future*

December 2008  
Issue No. 20

## Conservation

---

### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

#### The Second "R" – Reuse

Take your own reusable bags whenever you shop, at any store. Local markets may make donations to the ERC or reduce your bill when you bring in your own bags. You can help yourself, the earth and the ERC in their work to keep our valley beautiful and sustainable with this small step.

Shop at and donate to our wonderful resale stores! They are fun and provide a great opportunity to ensure everything you buy has a chance to be used for its full lifetime, while supporting important local non-profit organizations.

Consider alternatives to paper and plastic disposable products. Use the linen napkins in the back of the drawer. Take your favorite mug to the coffee shop. Instead of purchasing trash bags, use the grocery store plastic bags you had to bring home when you forgot to haul your own in. Reuse water bottles rather than purchasing more.

## Dreaming of a Green Christmas

---

### LED Holiday Lights

As you begin decorating for the holidays, consider switching from the energy-consuming incandescent strings to the LED options, which use from 75 to 90% less power. The cost is somewhat more than the others, but has decreased drastically in the past few years. Though the initial expense is a bit more, the energy savings coupled with the increased longevity of the bulbs (made from epoxy lenses and rated for up to 100,000 hours+ indoors, up to 50,000 outdoors) easily outweighs the cost difference. In addition, LED lights do not get hot like incandescent bulbs, thus reducing the risk of combustion.

The South Valley Merchants' Alliance is offering the opportunity to recycle your old strings of lights, working or not, and help offset the cost of new LED lights for the streets of Hailey! Idaho Power will rebate the SVMA for all strings turned in to their designated recycling facility through mid-December.

Contact Kim Garvin at 788-7070 or the Hailey Chamber of Commerce at 788-3484 for more information and the best place to take your old strings of lights. You can help

beautify Hailey, reduce your holiday power bills and lessen our impact on the environment by rethinking your holiday decorations.

### Holiday Conservation Tips

The holiday season and its typical buying, wrapping and celebrating increases the amount of solid waste we generate by about 25% for the typical American family. The following tips can make your season brighter and your new year lighter.

#### WHEN HOLIDAY SHOPPING

- Carry your own reusable bag rather than accepting a separate bag for each purchase.
- Buy eco-friendly gifts like useful reusable bags, toys and games that don't use batteries or electricity. Better yet, give non-material gifts (gift certificates for massages, movies, dining, classes, etc.).
- Reuse gift wrap.
- Wrap gifts in festive dishtowels or bandannas to be reused.
- Give gifts in reusable gift bags, baskets, totes or tins.
- Wrap gifts in colorful maps or your child's artwork and tie up with a bow from last year's packages.

#### GREETING CARDS AND DECORATIONS

- Cut along the fold and reuse holiday cards as gift cards, tags or a holiday postcard for next year. Cards can also be cut up to be used in holiday craft projects.
- Save your holiday decorations, including bows, ribbons and paper, for reuse next year.

#### HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

- Use cloth napkins, stainless, and real glasses and plates rather than disposable plastic, styrofoam or paper.
- Reuse plastic margarine tubs or yogurt containers to store (or send home) holiday leftovers.

#### RECYCLE CARDBOARD AND BOXES

- Flatten and recycle your corrugated cardboard at Ohio Gulch or the Park & Ride lot on River Street. All other cardboard boxes (cereal boxes, clothing boxes, etc.) can be put in with your curbside mixed paper each week.

