

OMF W.I.S.E ~ First Friday Fun Facts

Have a Green Holiday!

Gift Alternatives

When deciding on a gift, think about the amount of energy it took to produce and transport.

- Shop in your hometown and look for 'local gifts' that are made close by to help support the local economy. Local agricultural products such as plants, wine, meat, honey, cheese, maple syrup, etc. are especially good gifts since they support local farmers.
- Restaurant or massage gift certificates
- Make a charitable donation in someone's name
- Re-gift or do a white elephant exchange
- Make gifts instead of buying them. Baked goods, homemade jerky, and jams are great.
- When buying imported products, look for fair-trade. Often, eco-friendly practices are used in fair-trade products, and the workers are paid a living wage.

Check out these upcoming events:

Women In Business Holiday Market:
December 6th

Handmade NW will hold a couple
holiday artisans fairs:
December 7th and December 20th

Card Alternatives

Send e-cards, or make your own cards. Each holiday, 2.65 billion paper cards are sold in this country. Enough holiday cards are printed in one holiday season to fill a stadium to the top. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the U.S. Postal Service expects to deliver approximately **20 billion pieces of mail**, according to a Postal Service report.



Other Helpful Hints



- Don't take a bag with your purchase.
- Wrap your gift with pine cones and holly from the yard, instead of ribbon.
- Consider LED (light emitting diode) tree lights instead of incandescent bulbs. The US Department of Energy calculates that 2 billion kilowatt hours of electricity could be saved each year if all incandescent lights were replaced with LED lights.
- Make garlands out of popcorn and cranberries, and after the holidays put the tree outside and the birds will appreciate the food.

This WISE factsheet is brought to you by the OMF "W.I.S.E Guys & Gals":
Workplace Innovators for a Sustainable Earth, OMF's
Sustainability Team. Watch for new tips every first Friday of the month!