



O K L A H O M A  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
*...for a clean, attractive, prosperous Oklahoma*

707 North Robinson, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677

## News Release

---

For Immediate Release: December 22, 2014  
Contact: Erin Hatfield, (405) 702-7119

### **DEQ Offers Holiday Tips that can Save you Money**

During the holiday season, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality encourages citizens to reduce, reuse, and recycle. By following some simple tips, you can save money, reduce waste, and conserve water.

Donating toys and other items that are no longer used helps prevent those items from going to the waste stream. Additionally, computers, televisions, and cell phones can be reused or recycled. Many electronics retailers offer some kind of take-back program or sponsor recycling events. Many gifts come packaged in cardboard that can be recycled. By recycling gift packaging, you reduce waste and avoid alerting the public about what new gifts are in your home.

Another consideration going into the holidays is that 70-percent of Earth is covered by water. However, less than one-percent is available for human use. There is no new water. As you prepare your holiday meals, consider these water conservation tips:

- When cooking, peel and clean vegetables in a large bowl of water instead of under running water.
- Thaw foods in the refrigerator overnight instead of running hot water over them.
- Fill your sink when washing and rinsing dishes.  
Run the dishwasher only when it is full. Use the water saving settings if your appliance has them.
- Only use the garbage disposal when necessary (composting is a great alternative).
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. Running the tap to cool the water for drinking is wasteful. The refrigerator water will be colder.
- Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even a small leak can waste thousands of gallons in a month, which translates to money out of your pocket.

One more note, remember that you can recycle your most important decoration. Recycled Christmas trees can be used for mulch, erosion control, and even as habitats for fish in lakes and ponds. Check with your community for tree drop off locations.

More information is available at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/index.htm>.

###