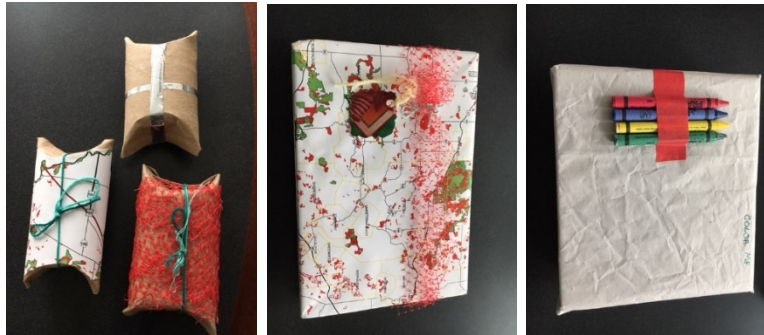


## Learning Trunk Engagement Guide – Green Gifts Trunk at Events



### Overview

On average, Minnesotans create six pounds of waste per person per day. From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, residential waste increases by more than 25 percent. Additional food waste, packaging, wrapping paper and decorations add about one million extra tons per week to the nation's garbage piles. By changing the way we celebrate during holidays and throughout the year, we can also celebrate a cleaner environment. One thing you can do is make your own gift boxes and gift card holders instead of spending money on new materials that often cannot be recycled. You can also give low-waste presents by creating a homemade gift, sharing an experience or providing a service.

### Objective

Provide examples of different gift and gift wrapping ideas to show residents at events visual representations of gifts that are wrapped and given with waste reduction in mind.

### Audience

Residents of all ages at events, with a focus on those who purchase and wrap gifts.

### Discussion questions

- Why do you think people use new gift wrap every year?
- What kind of difference would it make if everyone used green gift wrap?
- In addition to using green gift wrap, what else can you do around holidays or celebrations to reduce waste? (Use reusable dishes at parties instead of disposables, providing recycling options, etc.)
- Have you given a gift that was homemade, reusable, recyclable or edible before? What was the reaction to the gift?
- What other ideas do you have for giving green gifts?

**Hennepin County** Environment and Energy

Hennepin County Energy Center

600 10th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55415-1709

[hennepin.us/environment](http://hennepin.us/environment)



**Additional idea**

- Bring supplies with you to the event so that those who visit your table/booth can wrap a present using one of the techniques you have an example of. Refer to the Reducing waste activity: Give green gifts (included in this trunk) for more information.

**Contact information**

- Call 612-348-3777 if you have questions on the day you return the learning trunk.

**Additional resources**

- Environmental education activity guides– [www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation](http://www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation)
- Additional learning trunks – [www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation](http://www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation)
- Request literature for your event – [www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation](http://www.hennepin.us/environmentaleducation)
- Hennepin County Green Disposal Guide – [www.hennepin.us/greendisposalguide](http://www.hennepin.us/greendisposalguide)
- Event resources including portable waste stations – [www.hennepin.us/eventrecycling](http://www.hennepin.us/eventrecycling)
- Organics recycling – [www.hennepin.us/organics](http://www.hennepin.us/organics)
- Rethink Recycling, Event Planning– [www.rethinkrecycling.com/events](http://www.rethinkrecycling.com/events)