Canon

GREEN TEAM

Green Tips

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Green Tips

The holiday season is fast approaching. For those who exchange holiday gifts, electronic devices often top the list. Here, you'll find advice on how to recycle electronic items you may be replacing and how to select the most earth-friendly batteries to power those gifts. Also, with shorter days upon us, you can learn more about the benefits of energy-efficient lighting.

Reuse or Recycle Electronic Devices

Perhaps a new computer is on your wish list, or you've decided to begin the new year by treating yourself to the latest smartphone. What will you do with your old computer or cell phone?

- **Donate your used electronics -** Computers less than five years old can be donated to schools, after-school centers and other community sites. Cell phones in particular can be reused by non-profit organizations, such as those that assist the elderly or victims of domestic violence.
- **Recycle your devices –** Valuable materials, such as gold and copper, can be extracted from discarded electronics and reused. Equally important, recycling keeps toxic materials used in electronics out of the waste stream.

  It's essential that you prepare your electronics for donation or recycling by deleting all personal data.
- **Preparing your cell phone –** To clear personal information from the phone, you can manually delete all information and remove the SIM card or you can contact your service provider or phone manufacturer for instructions.
- **Deleting data from a computer's hard drive –** Your first step should be to back up all the data you want to keep. Disk clearing software is available from various vendors or freeware sites for the do-it-yourself enthusiasts. Or, you can take the computer to a professional data cleaner.

Many municipalities hold special e-waste recycling days or have special drop-off

locations. Check with your local government's waste management department. Several national retailers also offer e-recycling programs and often accept a wide range of devices, including televisions.

For additional information on how to donate or recycle electronic devices, including a short video on preparing your computer, and links to non-profits that accept donations, **visit:**

Go Reuse & Recycle

Tips Article:

Identifying Eco-Friendly Household Cleaning Products

Tips Archives

Batteries: Buy Rechargeable When Possible

When you need a convenient power source, nothing beats batteries. But, batteries contain heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel, so proper disposal is necessary in order to avoid contaminating the environment.

The simplest way to reduce the number of batteries in the waste stream is to buy rechargeable batteries whenever possible. Call2Recycle is a non-profit public service organization that promotes free rechargeable battery and cell phone recycling in North America. To get the most from rechargeable batteries, Call2Recycle suggests that you:

- Never return a fully-charged battery to the charger for an extra boost. That actually

shortens the life of the battery.

- Do not leave your rechargeable battery in the charger when not charging. Continuous charging will shorten battery life.
- Replace your battery when it will no longer hold a charge and recycle your old one.

Recycling standard batteries, such as those found in flashlights, cameras and toys, may be more challenging but many local governments sponsor battery recycling days or have drop-off locations. Call your local municipal sanitation department to inquire.

To learn more, visit:

Go Resource Conservation – Common Wastes & Materials

Go Call2Recycle

Efficient Lighting for Shorter Days of Winter

According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), if every American home replaced just one light bulb with a light bulb that's earned the ENERGY STAR rating, we would save enough energy to light 3 million homes for a year.

As home lighting needs increase during the winter's shorter days, it's a good time to consider swapping traditional incandescent bulbs for more energy-efficient lighting, such as compact fluorescent lighting (CFL) or light-emitting diode (LED) lighting.

CFL and LED light bulbs that have received the ENERGY STAR certification have numerous eco-friendly advantages, including the fact that they use 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last six times longer.

The DOE has assembled a comprehensive consumer information website that contains easy-to-understand explanations of the various energy-efficient lighting options, advice on how to select the correct bulb and answers to frequently asked questions.

Find more information at:

Go Energy Star – Buy Products that Make a Difference

If you have any comments or questions, please write to enviro@cusa.canon.com.

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