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| **Monday, December 15, 2014 141215-1**  **In this Issue:**  **Metro Monthly Green Tips: December 2014** |
| **Metro Monthly Green Tips: December 2014**  1. Waste Reduction  Between Thanksgiving and New Year’s day, the amount of household garbage in the United States increases by 25%. There are a number of simple measures to take to lessen the amount of trash we produce including reusing cloth bags for shopping and telling shop clerks that plastic bags aren’t needed for small or oversized purchases. If you host a party, use cloth napkins and reusable dishes, glasses and silverware instead of paper and plastic. Donate older toys and items no longer useful to charities instead of throwing them away.    2. Holiday Wrapping  Use gift bags instead of wrapping paper so the bag can be reused – this saves lots of space in the landfill from wrapping paper that is thrown away. For those items that must be wrapped, make sure to buy recycled content paper and recycle it after opening.  If every family in the U.S. reused two feet of holiday ribbon, it would save 38,000 miles of ribbon – enough to tie a bow around the entire planet!    3. Stop Junk Mail  With the holiday season comes a big increase in catalogs and other unwanted junk mail. You can call each publication individually to be removed from catalog lists, but an easier way to be removed from further mailings is to use a service such as EcoCycler which will stop junk mail for good. <http://www.ecocycle.org/junkmail> is one resource for signing up for this service.  By implementing this month’s green tips into your daily life, you’ll help contribute to a healthier, greener environment. | |
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