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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HELP MAKE THIS A GREENER HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season is one of the most giving times of the year but it's also one of the most wasteful. City of Nanaimo Public Works is encouraging residents to add – reduce, reuse, and recycle – to their Christmas lists.

Gift wrap and disposable shopping bags in Canada creates 545,000 tonnes of waste annually. Choosing gifts with less packaging and wrapping them responsibly will save resources and conserve energy.

“The amount of garbage we collect peaks in the two weeks after Christmas,” said Gary Franssen, Manager of Sanitation and Recycling. “Putting the 3Rs into practice before and after the holidays can reduce the impact on our environment and our landfill.”

One easy way to reduce waste and save money is by giving gifts of time or services. Sustainable gift choices include donating to charities in the recipient's name, giving movie tickets, transit passes, skating or swimming passes, or locally made presents.

Gift wraps with metal, wax or plastic coatings cannot be recycled and should not be placed in your yellow curbside recycling bag. When playing Santa, make the wrapping part of the gift by using a scarf, tea towel, or basket as wrap. Reusable gift bags, tea towels, cloth napkins or even reusable shopping bags are other ways to easily reduce holiday waste.

Much of the waste created during the holidays is recyclable or compostable. Before putting it in the garbage, check if paper, plastic, or metal in trash can be recycled at the curbside or at other local recycling facilities. Remember, along with food scraps, your green bin accepts soiled paper products such as paper plates, cups, waxed paper, waxed cardboard, paper food takeout containers, milk and ice cream cartons, and paper cups.

The Nanaimo Recycling Exchange (NRE) at 2477 Kenworth Road has now added polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) to its recycling services. The NRE also accepts computers, appliances, TVs, stereos, household batteries for recycling and used household goods for reuse at its Community Market. For more information call 250-758-7777.

Local recycling, reuse and disposal locations can be accessed through the RDN Recycling Directory at www.rdn.bc.ca or by calling the RCBC Recycling Hotline at 1-800-667-4321.

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