

December 21, 2009

City Tips for a Green Holiday

In keeping with the season of gift giving, the City of Campbell River is sharing tips based on a number of Green City initiatives.

The City of Campbell River recently launched a corporate Green Team to assist the municipality in implementing the City's Green City Strategy. The Green Team consists of staff representatives from each major department in the City. The team is working on in-house sustainability initiatives in the areas of energy conservation, waste reduction, environmental management planning, alternative transportation and water conservation.

"The goal of the Green Team is to assist the City in reducing its overall environmental footprint while finding creative ways to save money," explains Deputy City Manager George Paul. *"The team is working on incorporating sustainability principles and guidelines into the work of all City departments."*

"We are very pleased by the enthusiasm expressed by City staff in the formation of the Green Team," says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. *"The Green Team will be instrumental in moving the City toward implementing our Green City Strategy,"* he adds.

Current Green Team activities include energy conservation awareness, implementing the City's environmental purchasing policy and anti-idling policy, staff recognition for green initiatives and educational opportunities for staff.

In time for the holidays, the City has several Green City initiatives underway:

- **Christmas Tree Chipping:** The City has partnered with the professional firefighters to offer Christmas tree chipping. Chipping is by donation at the Sportsplex and Fire Hall #1 on January 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Keep your tree out of the landfill and support the Campbell River Hospital Foundation. Tree chips will be reused for City park projects.
- **LED Christmas Lights:** All the City's outdoor Christmas lights around town are LED lights. On average, LED Christmas lights use 85 per cent less energy than regular lights.
- **Waste Reduction Tips:** The City recently hosted a lunch and learn for City staff on ways to reduce holiday waste. The workshop was facilitated by the Comox Valley Regional District's Power of R educator Gayle Bates. Here are a few highlights:
 1. Package gifts in baskets, gift bags, or tin cans that can be reused.
 2. Use gifts as the package – wrap in hankies, scarves, tea towels or t-shirts. Even tuck a special treasure into the traditional pair of socks.
 3. Wrap with recyclables – pick materials that can be recycled afterwards such as computer paper or newspaper or colourful comics, then finish off with ribbon that can be used again and again or a special ornament.

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