

# BE GREEN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

As you prepare to welcome the holidays, South Coast AQMD recommends these simple tips to help save energy and reduce air pollution.



**Reduce Waste** – Gift wrap is often a single-use product which ends up in landfills. Try eco-friendly wrapping by using household materials such as newspaper, fabric or reusable tin boxes and gift bags.



**Reuse Decorations** – Millions of Christmas trees and natural wreaths are discarded after the holiday season every year. Use eco-friendly, reusable decorations wherever possible.



**Choose a Cleaner Furnace** – Older, outdated furnaces can be inefficient and contribute to air pollution. Breathe better and save money by upgrading! South Coast AQMD's Furnace Rebate Program can help you save money and reduce emissions with rebates up to \$500. For more information, visit [www.CleanAirFurnaceRebate.com](http://www.CleanAirFurnaceRebate.com).



**Wash Clothing in Cold Water** – Save up to 500 pounds of CO2 per year: do two loads of laundry weekly in cold water instead of hot or warm water. Doing your laundry in full loads also decreases the amount of water and energy used, helping you save time and money.



**Buy Locally-Produced Food and Compost your Scraps** – Check your grocer or farmers market for locally-grown produce to serve at your holiday feasts. It helps reduce air pollution by cutting down on transportation emissions and supports your local economy! Composting also reduces food waste and helps cut down on landfill methane emissions — a major source of greenhouse gas!



## **Reduce Energy from Lights, Electric Appliances and Devices**

– Conserve energy in your home and cut down on your electric bill! Turn off lights and other electric devices when not in use. Replace old lightbulbs with energy-efficient alternatives and use a timer or surge protector for holiday lights, household lamps, appliances, and other devices to help make turning them off much easier.



**Avoid “The Other Secondhand Smoke”** – Wood burning contributes to air pollution! Clear the air and reduce PM2.5 emissions by switching to more eco-friendly methods such as gas and electric. Sign up for Air Alerts at [www.airalerts.com](http://www.airalerts.com) to receive notifications when South Coast AQMD declares No-Burn days and help reduce ambient air pollution in our region.