

Easy 'green' Thanksgiving ideas

Thanksgiving is a holiday to give thanks and share special moments with family and friends. While the original Thanksgiving might have taken place during a time when food was sparse, nowadays Thanksgiving often involves excessive amounts of food, with more food ending up in the garbage than in celebrants' bellies.

The United States Department of Agriculture projects that Americans will throw away more than 200 million pounds of edible turkey meat this Thanksgiving holiday. And Thanksgiving typically ushers in a period of wastefulness, as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says American households produce roughly 25 percent more trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day than during the rest of the year.

Reducing waste is a worthy goal year-round, but especially so during the holiday season. And accomplishing that goal can be done without sacrificing holiday traditions.

• Use fine china when serving meals. Thanksgiving provides an opportunity to serve meals on fine china and use the silverware that has gone unused instead of disposable plates and utensils. In addition to adding a touch of elegance to meals, reusable china and silverware is less wasteful than paper plates and plastic utensils. Cloth napkins and other table linens are also more eco-friendly than paper napkins.

• Decorate using natural items. Scour the great outdoors for all-natural centerpiece materials or other items that can be turned into wreaths



and garlands. Vases filled with pine cones and acorns make for beautiful, inexpensive and festive decorations.

- Shop locally and organically. When shopping for Thanksgiving dinner, choose local produce, poultry and grains whenever possible. Resist the urge to buy more than you need as well. Skip some of the less-popular dishes that are used only to make the table seem full. Buy a small turkey or think about only serving turkey breasts, which tend to be the most popular cuts of the bird. Use reusable shopping bags to carry items home and reduce waste even further.

- Light candles and reduce energy consumption. During the meal, eat by candlelight and turn off lights in other areas of the home that are not in use. Rather than turning on the television, take the party outdoors and play a game of football on the front lawn.
- Have a local Thanksgiving. Start a new tradition and invite

nearby friends and family over for the holiday instead of traveling long distances. According to Use Less Stuff, a resource for eco-conscious men and women, if each family reduced gasoline consumption by one gallon (roughly 20 miles), they could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one million tons.

• Send home the leftovers. Send each guest home with some leftovers if you have any. This way the refrigerator isn't left full of items that will end up uneaten. Otherwise, donate uncooked food to a local food bank. Use any scraps of vegetables in a compost pile.

• Don't let recycling fall by the wayside. Remember to recycle all applicable items. Just because it's a holiday doesn't mean recycling habits should be forgotten. Encourage guests to pitch in by clearly marking recycling bins.

Thanksgiving can be less wasteful without detracting from the enjoyment and true meaning of the holiday.

• Offer storage space. One way to make guests feel comfortable is to give them their own storage space. This can include space in a closet, a couple of drawers to stow their belongings, or hangers in the entryway for coats and other winter attire. Not only will this keep things more organized, it can provide guests with comfort.

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4. Include guests when preparing for entertaining. Many guests like to feel involved, and by including them in meal preparation, decorating or shopping, you can help them feel included and appreciated.

5. Keep snacks and other creature comforts readily accessible. Guests may feel sheepish scavenging through cabinets or drawers looking for items. Make things easy to find by leaving items out on counters or indicating where items can be found.

For example, if you know a guest enjoys an evening cup of tea and some cookies, leave out the cookies, tea bags and kettle so that he or she can indulge when the urge comes.

Guests are a large part of the holiday season. Help them feel comfortable whenever they visit your home.

Five ways to make holiday guests comfortable

The time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day marks one of the busiest periods of the year for long-distance travel.

The United States Department of Transportation says that come Thanksgiving, the number of long-distance trips (50+ miles away) increases by 54 percent, and around Christmas that number rises by 23 percent over the remainder of the year. Those travelers ultimately need a place to rest their heads, and many stay with family and friends.

Entertaining during the holiday season involves accounting for guests' comfort, and that often means hosts must put their visitors' needs over their own.

Although some sacrifices need to be made, there is a way to find a happy compromise that can help the holidays go smoothly and happily. Consider these ways to help guests feel welcome whether they stay for a few hours or a few days.

1. Cater to specific dietary needs. One of the ways to treat guests kindly is by being aware of any special dietary needs they may have when it comes to preparing holiday meals or other foods during their visits. Some guests may require low-sodium diets, while others may be monitoring their blood-sugar levels and must dine accordingly.

Vegetarians and vegans limit the foods they eat, while others may avoid foods based on religious preferences. Offer a variety of foods and try to cater to guests' needs as much as possible. When in doubt, consult with the guest so he or she

feels welcome and does not go hungry.

2. Make sleeping spaces as private as possible. Not everyone has a separate guest room for overnight stays, but try to make sleeping areas as private as you can when visitors spend the night. Use privacy screens or set guests up in a family room that's away from the center of activity. Hosts may want to give up their own rooms for the comfort of guests.

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Hemingway Hardware Store

**37 Lewis Road
Hemingway, SC 29554**

**Phone: 843-558-1144
Fax: 843-558-1173**

HemingwayHardware@gmail.com

An Evening with Santa

Join us on Sunday, December 4 at the Williamsburg County Recreation Department located at 2084 Thurgood Marshall Hwy. for an "Evening with Santa". We will have cookies, juice, make your own Christmas Ornament, storytime and of course Santa Claus!

For more information or if you would like to donate a gift to be given away to children during a drawing, please call Stephanie Pendergrass at:

Good Samaritan Home Care Services
3 Round Swamp Rd. • Kinsgtree, SC
(843) 382-3574

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office (SCDRO) of the South Carolina Department of Commerce, 632 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 896-4171

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office (SCDRO) of the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about December 09, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Commerce will "authorize the South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office to" submit a request to HUD for the release of Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds under The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2016 (Pub. L. 114-113, approved December 18, 2015) to undertake a project known as Single Family Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program, Williamsburg County, South Carolina for the purpose of rehabilitating and/or reconstructing single-family homes, and/or replacement of single-family Manufactured Housing Units (MHUs) that were damaged by the October 2015 Flood Event. This is a multi-year project 12/2016-12/2021 where SCDRO will be carrying out various individual action on single family homes. Rehabilitation activities may include: repair or replacement of structure elements such as roof, windows, door, sheetrock, plumbing and electrical fixtures, mechanicals, and lead based paint and mold remediation. Reconstruction activities will include demolition of the original storm-damaged unit, site preparation, elevation as required, and reconstruction of a single-family dwelling. MHU replacement will include demolishing original MHU on site, hauling debris away and placing new MHU in previous MHU footprint.

Under 24 CFR 58.15 (Tiering) and 24 CFR 58.32 (Project aggregation), SCDRO will utilize a tiered approach for combining similar work into geographic as well as functional aggregation packages when conducting the environmental review. The "Broad Review" or "Tier 1 review" has been completed and it has been determined that the project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Applying the tiering rule provides SCDRO the ability to separate individual project site work into aggregate categories of work having similar geographic and/or functional environmental attributes. A "site specific" or "Tier II" review will be done on each subject property before using any CDBG-DR funds for construction activities. The estimated CDBG-DR funding amount for Williamsburg County is \$8,800,000.00.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

SCDRO has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file with Eric Fosmire at the South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office, 632 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201 and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M to 5 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to Eric Fosmire, 632 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201. All comments received by December 08, 2016 will be considered by SCDRO prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

SCDRO certifies to HUD that Eric Fosmire in his capacity as the SCDRO Attorney consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the SCDRO to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the SCDRO's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the SCDRO; (b) SCDRO has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Bradley S. Evatt, Director CPD, 1835 Assembly Street, 13th Floor, Columbia, SC 29201-2460, (803)765-5344. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.