



# RAVEN REPORT

December 2012

## Season's Greetings

It's that time of year again: presents, turkey and what to buy for your cousin Michael? The Christmas season does generate a fair amount of waste what with all the wrapping paper and feasting. You can recycle the packaging here at Raven and compost turkey remnants but here are a few more ideas we found to reduce and reuse.

Use old newspapers or comics to wrap presents instead of gift wrap. Comics will add some colour and old old newspapers or those from Outside might have some interesting articles.

Cut out pieces from the design on your Christmas cards and use them as gift tags for next year's presents. Also, cards can be used for making tree decorations or festive cat toys, sometimes they're the same thing.

Keep your wrapping paper and shred it to use as protective pack-

aging for the next time you send out gifts. Maybe try and get the family interested in origami with the paper from the presents.

Try to buy gifts with less packaging or make your own from repurposed materials.

There's a lot of debate about whether real or artificial trees are better. One thing to keep in mind is that a typical real Christmas tree absorbs about 1 ton of CO<sub>2</sub> during its lifetime. Artificial trees are made from PVC and can't be recycled, though they can be reused for many years. The City of Whitehorse will pick up your real tree from the kerb during January or if you don't have garbage/compost pick-up there are other composting options.



Yuletide Greetings  
from all of us at

## Raven Recycling

### RECYCLING CLUB NEWS

Don't forget, the deadline to order prize certificates is 11.59PM 19th December. You can call in, phone or email your order. Provided your email or voicemail is dated before the deadline we will process the certificates for you, no need to worry about having to speak to someone. This is a busy time of year, so we work through our emails and voice-mails in the order they are received. If time is of the essence, come in and see us during office hours.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Carbon sequestration is the capture and long term storage of atmospheric carbon. Virtually all of the carbon in the atmosphere is in the form of carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>. So, if we can lock that carbon away then we can reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> floating around. The process is not new, it goes back to around 3,400,000,000 years ago. That's when the first ancestors of plants arose, plants of all kinds absorb the carbon from the atmosphere. This is why using fossil fuels is a problem. The carbon in them was absorbed over 300 million years ago and then locked away out of the natural carbon cycle when coal and oil formed. Burning the fossil fuels releases the prehistoric carbon back into the atmosphere. Planting long-lived trees and encouraging regrowth of forests is a good way to absorb and lock up carbon. The boreal forest is a huge carbon sink, with the carbon locked up in both the soil and the plants. Soil of all kinds is a carbon sink and good agricultural practices can increase the amounts stored in farmland. Carbon from the atmosphere is also stored in rocks such as limestone as well as the ocean. There have been various suggestions for storing CO<sub>2</sub> in the oceans, ranging from direct injection to providing iron to fertilise plant-like plankton. These are all controversial as we can't be sure of the effects of the work on the ocean life.



# RAVEN RECYCLING

Our Commitment is the Environment

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