

The News

The Community Net-Zero Education Project
Newsletter



YOUR GUIDE TO AN ECO-CONSCIOUS HOLIDAY SEASON

By Lauren Fehr

As we embrace the holiday season, a time traditionally marked by celebration and generosity, there's a less cheerful side we cannot ignore. Our holiday habits – from the frenzied shopping sprees to the lavish decor – play a bigger role in climate change than we might think. This guide aims to help us celebrate responsibly, reducing our environmental footprint while still savoring the season's spirit.

The unfortunate truth is, our seasonal splurges can have a significant carbon footprint. Every new gadget or trendy clothing item carries with it a history of production and transportation that contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. Not to mention the staggering amount of waste generated during the holiday season.

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Your Guide to an Eco-Conscious Holiday Season

Next Stop for RGGI – The PA Supreme Court

Seasons Greetings

ACTION STEP

ZERO-WASTE GIFT WRAPPING

Make your holiday gifts stand out with sustainable wrapping

Try using fabric wraps, recycled paper, or natural decorations for an eco-friendly touch. These simple changes not only reduce waste but also add a personal flair to your gift-giving.

NEXT STOP FOR RGGI-THE PA SUPREME COURT

By Julia Nakhleh

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a proven, market-based cap and invest approach to reducing carbon emissions. Under RGGI, power plants pay for allowances in order to emit CO₂. RGGI caps these allowances, reducing the amount every year, therefore reducing their impact on the climate crisis over time. RGGI currently has 12 members, including Pennsylvania, however, Pennsylvania has been unable to participate in RGGI because of lawsuits brought by Republican state legislators as well as the fossil fuel industry.

RGGI's road in PA has been long and complicated. One important thing to note is that Pennsylvania entered RGGI as an executive order from former Governor Wolf, unlike most other states that entered with approval from their state legislators. This comes into play in one of the latest developments. On November 1, 2023 Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Court rejected RGGI on the grounds that they see the money the fossil fuel-fired power plants have to pay as a tax and not a fee. All taxes must be approved by the state legislature, therefore in their opinion RGGI needs to go through the state legislature first. This would be highly unlikely to pass given the current membership of the state legislature...



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SEASONS GREETINGS

As we immerse ourselves in the festive season, let's carry the spirit of mindfulness with us. May your holidays be filled with joy, thoughtfulness, & actions that positively impact our world. Wishing you a season of meaningful celebrations & sustainable choices!