

Eco Tip for January—Paper

We need to rethink our use of paper and paper products, because paper production causes deforestation, uses enormous amounts of energy and water, and contributes to air pollution and waste problems. It takes between 2 and 13 litres of water to make a single sheet of A4 paper.

Christmas cards

We know we should conserve paper, and it is easy to salve our consciences by buying charity cards for good causes but, they are often used once and thrown away and there are only so many Christmas present gift tags that we can use!

Your January Challenge is to find a way to re-use ALL of your cards

Here are two ideas for reusing your Christmas cards this year.

Create a Christmas Postcard –Save the energy and resources needed to make new Christmas cards and envelope.

- Carefully cut out the picture half of the card along the fold line.
- Discard the half with your friends Christmas greeting on
- On the back of the picture half , draw a line down the middle to create a postcard format. Use the space on the left to write your Christmas message and the space on the right to write your friend's address. No envelope required, just attach a stamp.
- Send...best wait though until December 2024!

See a video showing how its done here

[Christmas Card demo movie](#)

Create a game for all the family –We have enjoyed playing this game in our family for decades and it is now being introduced to my great-nieces, we call it The Card Game.

How to create the game -

- Save as many cards as you can, Christmas, Easter, Birthday or Valentines cards are all ideal. The number you need varies, I have about 500 cards maybe more! Any number of people can play so the more cards you have the more people can play and the game will last longer
- Cut the cards in half. Keep the picture half and discard the rest.
- Cut the picture in two, randomly - straight, a diagonal cut or even a wavy cut
- Label one half with a letter A on the back and the other half with a letter B. This helps with sorting later!
- Put all the letter A pieces in one bag and the letter B pieces in another bag

Rules and how to play

- The house rules are up to you but, are ours are no running and no sneakily hiding pieces so people can't find them!
- The person who runs the game is the 'Game Controller'. To set up the game the Controller lays all the card B pieces out around the house, on the floor, on tables, chairs, work surfaces in the hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room wherever there is space, making sure they are easily visible.
- The Game Controller then takes up their station, its best if they are seated!
- The Game Controller gives each person ONE card from the A pieces bag
- When all the players have a card the Game Controller will then start the game with GO!
- Each player must search for the other half to their card around the house
- Once they have found the other half, they pick it up and collect another A card from the Controller.

Note. Players should retain all the cards that they find for counting up later (both pieces).

- When the Game Controller runs out of cards the game is over

- The players then find a quiet spot to join their sets of cards together and count the pairs.
- The player with the most sets of cards is the winner

This game can be repeated and repeated and the beauty of it is, the Greetings cards are not thrown away!

See a pdf of how the game is created

The Card Game.pdf

For more information on paper production see this article from the BBC

<https://www.bbc.com/future/bespoke/made-on-earth/how-paper-is-making-a-comeback/>