



Sustainable Holidays: 2025



**Low Waste, Low Cost,
Low Stress Strategies.**



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ABOUT CLEAN FAIRFAX & LITTER FREE VIRGINIA

The mission of Clean Fairfax is to encourage environmental stewardship and urban sustainability in Fairfax County, Virginia through advocacy, education, programming, and community involvement.

Litter Free Virginia is a network of partners that track local and regional legislation and policies around litter prevention, plastic pollution, solid waste management, recycling and zero waste.

What Does it Mean to Be Sustainable?

- To know and not exceed your budget
- To use the things you already have
- To consider the beginning, middle and probable end of a product
- To ask yourself: How have I served, protected, enhanced my community and environment?



What's different this year over last year?



2025



- Cost of living in our area
- Layoffs and Furloughs
- Tariffs
- Stress and social fabric unravelling



Wasteful Holidays are Wasteful

- The United States creates 5.8 **million tons** (23%) more waste in December than in other months of the year.
- 3 in 5 Americans have lied about liking a gift they've received.
- 1/3 of people who accepted a gift they didn't like threw it in the trash.

Retailers dump about **25% of returned products** (5 billion lbs) in landfills.



**\$10.1 billion dollars
spent in the United
States on gifts people do
not want or need**



Net cash	283	4,186	14,355
Financing			
Term debt	0	(1,000)	0
Stock issued	208	660	544
Stock repurchased	(1,042)	(5,052)	(2,976)
Stock cash dividends paid	(1,683)	(1,363)	(3,024)
Cash used in financing	(2,513)	(6,751)	(5,382)
Investing			
Property and equipment	(498)	(491)	(934)
Acquisition of companies, net of			
Goodwill acquired, and purchases of			
Intangible and other assets	(8,627)	(69)	(9,501)
Investments	(10,047)	(5,896)	(21,341)
Investment	6,061	1,836	8,888
Investment	7,835	2,603	15,371
Investment	(292)	447	(35)
Investing	(5,568)	(1,570)	(7,888)
Equivalents, end of	\$ 10,610	\$ 4,023	\$ 10,610

A Reminder! (from 2021)

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

Things not stuck on a container ship

- Local Art
- Neighborhood Businesses
- Thrift Store Finds
- Hand/Homemade Goodies
- Gift Certificates for Experiences
- IOUs for Gardens/Household Help
- Charitable Donations

Celebrate Resilience This Year

Shopping: Small and Local vs. Big & Online

For every \$100 spent, how much stays in the community?



- Online shopping removes almost 100% of that \$100
- Nonprofits receive 250% more support from small businesses than large ones

Give the people what they want

(without breaking the bank or your heart)

Gift lists are
your friend

Experiences vs
things

Thrift and
Antique stores!

Gift certificates
(you can make
your own)

The Gift of Time

Handmade!

Gift of Time



Ideas

Experiences, Handmade,
Classes, Subscriptions,
Donations



Entertaining

- Farmers Markets and Farm Stores
- **Regardless of where you do your food shopping: Bring Your Own Bags**
- Compost your kitchen and table scraps
- Save containers to send leftovers or treats home with friends and family
- **You have dishes, silverware, cups and glasses. Use them, not single use plastic.**





Decorating

The most sustainable decorations will always be the ones that you can use over and over, or the ones you can compost.

If you are just starting out, look for holiday decor and ornaments at thrift shops, Facebook Marketplace, Freecycle, and yard sales.





Lead By Example

- Wash Real Dishes!
- Propose a handmade only gift or cookie exchange at work
- Remind other guests/coworkers to bring leftover containers
- Show off your reusables



The Great Debate: Live Tree vs Artificial Tree



A real Christmas tree is a more "eco-friendly" choice for the season because it is a renewable & biodegradable natural resource.

10 Years



1 Blue Spruce

Ways to Wrap Sustainably

- Use recycled and recyclable wrapping paper
- Use fabric, and fabric strips
- Make the wrap part of the gift
- Use twine that can be reused or composted
- If you use tape, try to get it off before putting the wrap in the recycling bin



After The Holidays

- Because you didn't use anything disposable, just put everything away
 - Organics (unpainted pumpkins, Christmas trees) can be composted
- ➡➡ Check your locality about tree pick up

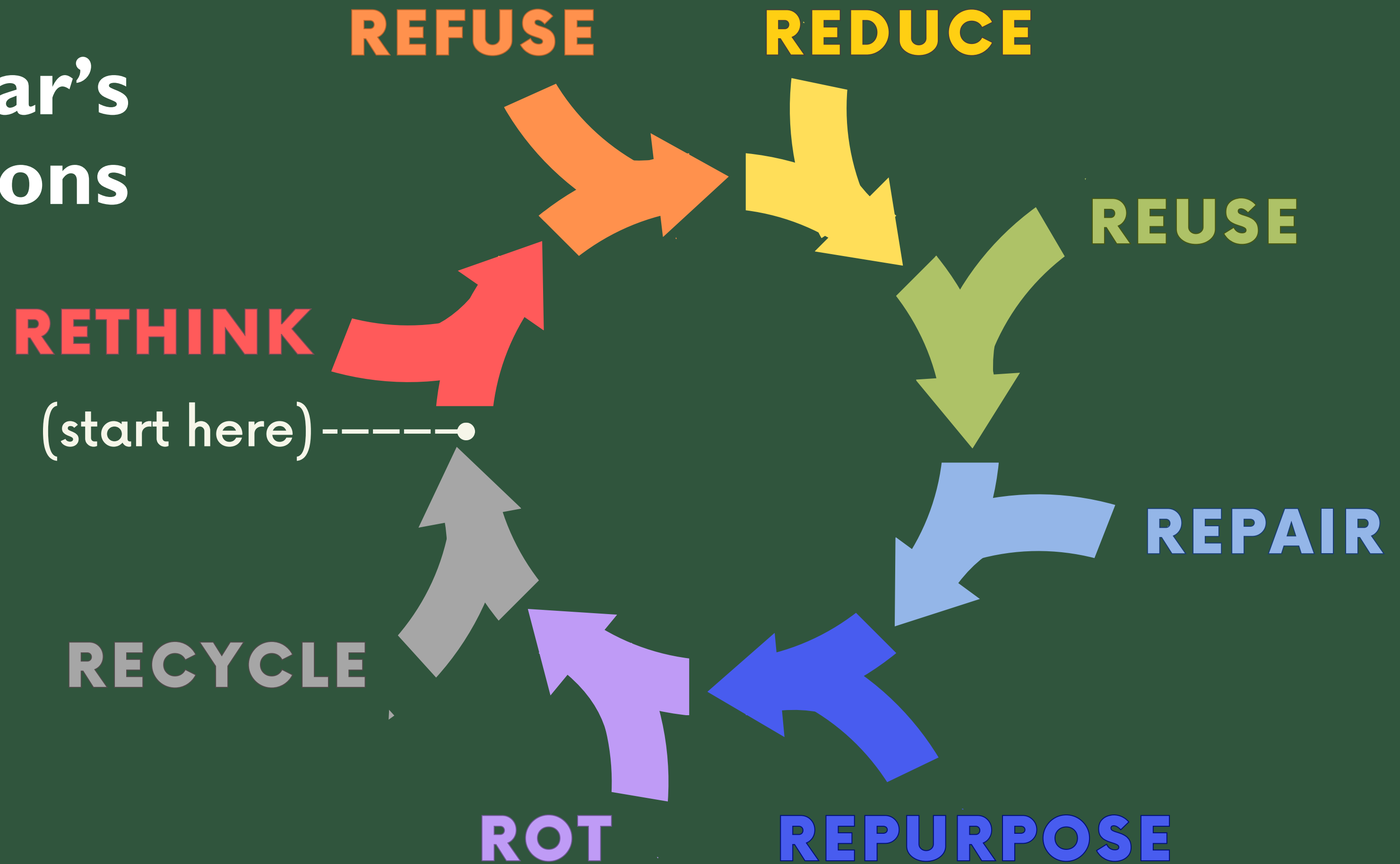


Debunking the Greatest Myth of all time



This means
absolutely
nothing

New Year's Resolutions



Thank You!

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