



newsletter

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The Nitty Gritty—Alta Green Team Disperses Waste Myths



One simple example of Deer Valley's efforts—a box to collect maps for reuse.

This season the Green Team decided to leave Alta and follow its trash and recycling down the canyon and visit another nearby ski town to see how they manage waste.

The first field trip was to Park City's local recycling center, [Recycle Utah](#), and [Deer Valley Resort](#). Recycle Utah is a non-profit organization that collects a good portion of Summit County's residential and commercial recyclables, including Deer Valley's. Most of the recyclables include the regular items, but they have expanded their efforts to include packing styrofoam, glass, sneakers, child car seats, chip bags, wine corks, building materials, appliances and much more. This organization is dedicated to recycling and work very hard to educate the public and the Green Team on waste management and carbon emissions.

Deer Valley is also doing their part to manage their waste stream by diverting much of their waste from the landfill. Their program primarily involves 3 employees that gather, sort and deliver recyclables to Recycle Utah. The employees and customers at all restaurants and office facilities recycle. Deer Valley is taking great steps towards sustainability by embracing a company wide Environmental Vision Statement: *"Instilling a culture of environmental sustainability at Deer Valley that ensures the resort stay green for future generations while maintaining its commitment to guest service"*.

The Green Team's second field trip included a trip to the [Salt Lake Valley Landfill](#) and [Rocky Mountain Recycling](#), where Alta's trash and co-mingle recycling go. The landfill proved to be a highly educating experience by epitomizing the very reason reducing, reusing and recycling are so important. Salt Lake County has determined the lifespan



Rocky Mountain Recycling invested over \$7 million for upgraded machinery that can handle large volumes of single-stream recyclables.

of their landfill to be till 2058, which on the sustainable side of things is not too far from now. The County is doing as much as they can to prevent many items from entering the landfill in order to prolong it's lifespan by offering a recycling service for the hard to recycle items (like green, hazardous, fibrous and metal waste) to the public. The county welcomes field trips like the Green Team's and many others to build landfill and alternative waste management awareness.

The visit to Rocky Mountain Recycling also proved to be very educational by giving the Green Team the necessary knowledge to help recycling facilities maximize recycling. With tons of recyclables coming in and out of this facility on a daily basis it was humbling to see the environmental and economical good recycling facilities are providing with their service. Many thanks to the dedicated recyclers and tour guides from the Green Team

for their time. In full "triangle" the Green Team shares a few myth-busters they learned on these field trips.

- Contamination can and cannot ruin a whole load of recyclables; many contaminants are picked out by hand, but many items like food containers if not rinsed out enough can cause a load to be thrown out.
- Co-mingled recyclables do not require the removal of plastic caps off plastic containers, but separated recyclables do.
- For greater assurance that all your recyclables are recycled, separate items as much as possible in your collection bin and when dropping off your bags or boxes, either untie or empty the contents into the larger bins that are picked up by your recycling service.



Recycle Utah is one of a few locations in the country that recycles old car seats.

Holiday Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Tips—Be A Good Steward, Santa's Watching!



The holidays are often a time for splurging and over indulging, but they are also a time to be thankful, be good to others and the earth, and to budget. Here are a few tips to keep your wallet fuller and your good deed list long:

Reduce

- Just 1 really good gift is all many are thankful for.
- Reduce your car driving by grabbing gifts on your way from work, to a party or a night out. Saving you from burning gas and yourself out.
- Eco-friendly gifts with no packaging is all the rage.
- Bring your own shopping bags. It works for gifts, just like groceries.

Reuse

- "Brown paper packages tied up in string...are just a few of my favorite things". It's classic and with a pretty ribbon, looks elegant. Just turn your brown paper grocery bags inside out.
- Use last year's wrapping paper, boxes, bags, ribbons and bows. Just tell folks it's for the earth. If you don't have any left over from last year, save this year's for next year.
- Old holiday cards make great gift tags. Scissors and a hole-punch is all you need.

Recycle

- Recycle all your torn up wrapping paper. It is the easiest thing you can do these holidays! Just keep the ribbons and bows out of the equation.
- Donate all old gifts being replaced by new ones or check with your local recycler for the odd, non-reusables. It takes just a little bit of effort to be a very good steward.