



Cahuilla Band of Indians

Cahuilla Tribal Environmental Protection Office

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December Newsletter



In this Issue...

**Let's Talk About
CTEPO Updates
Important Dates & Events**

**Let's Learn About
Making it a Sustainable
Holiday Season**

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CTEPO Updates!

November was a very busy and an absolutely amazing month for CTEPO!

At long a last, CTEPOs tree shipments from the local nursery arrived, and we were able to distribute those out to you during this last month. Now, thanks to you all, there will be over a hundred trees to prosper for the next century. What a profoundly special piece of knowledge to carry with us. So, thank you again for helping CTEPO make the world a greener place!

At the beginning of the month, our Environmental Director, Luther, had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Indian Climate and Health Summit in Pala, CA. At this summit, environmental professionals from various tribes along the western coast discussed the most prevalent issues to their regions and the mitigation efforts of their Environmental Offices. Luther really appreciated the knowledge shared at this summit and was grateful for the opportunity to attend such an informative event.

Lastly, at the end of the month, our department had the pleasure of welcoming Jacqueline Shirley, visiting from New Mexico, to tour our site as the commencement of an exciting collaborative effort between CTEPO and RCAC. Stay tuned for more news on this new project!

Winter Calendar

December 2023

S M T W T F S



1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

First Day
of Winter

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Christmas
Eve
31
New Year's Eve



January 2024

S M T W T F S



New Year's
Day

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

MLK Day

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31

February 2024

S M T W T F S



1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Presidents
Day

25 26 27 28 29

Winter Wonderings

Americans spend around \$645 million lighting decorations every holiday season.

Holiday greeting cards account for nearly half of all personal correspondence in the US.

Snow absorbs sound, making it seem quieter. Ice reflects it, making travel further faster.

definitely me today and probably me for the next 4 months

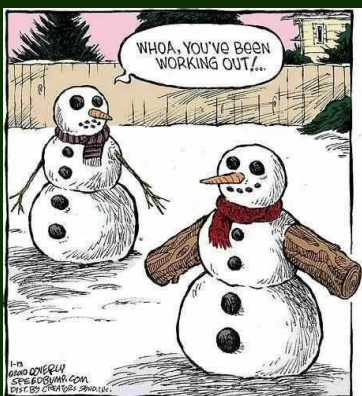


You Snow You Wanna Laugh

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a shark?
Frostbite

Why was the snowman rummaging through a bag of carrots?
He was picking his nose.

How did the snow globe feel after hearing a scary story?
A bit shook up.



March 2024

S M T W T F S



1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

End of
Winter

24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31



A Sustainable Season



With Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Years all around the corner, there are many wonderful celebrations and gatherings ahead of us.

However, while making these delightful memories there are some environmental issues to also consider.

What Can We Do?

- **Buy Recycled Paper Greeting Cards and Wrapping Paper.** (Even better use reusable tote bags or gift bags!)
- Recycle what you can from gift waste (especially cardboard boxes & wrapping paper)
- **Don't let your live Christmas trees end up in the landfill.** (Recycle them or turn them into mulch.)
- If you have an artificial tree, keep the same one for as long as possible. Decades if possible.
- **Use LED Christmas lights** (they use less energy).
- Try to avoid single-use plastic products and decorations.

Fast Facts

- Each year, \$465 billion is spent on the holidays.
- 3.5 billion kWh are used to power decorative lights each year, emitting an approximated 2 million tons of CO2.
- Every year around 1.6 billion holiday greeting cards are sold and 1.3 billion are mailed out. That's a lot of paper and emissions.
- 8,000 tons of wrapping paper (equivalent to 50,000 trees) is used and thrown away every year.
- Artificial Christmas trees are made from PVC and steel, typically shipped from China, and, due to their materials, can be even more harmful to the environment than fresh trees if not used for a long enough period of time (at least 5-7 years).

Upcycling Opportunity!

What is upcycling?

Upcycling is taking something that might be considered waste and finding an elevated purpose. This helps keep things out of the landfill in favor of turning it into something valuable to you!

This holiday season, instead of throwing out the greeting cards you are sent, cut out this template and trace it on the decorative cardstock material to turn them into gift tags for next year! Voila!

Word Bank

Artificial
Consumerism
Decorations
Energy
Gatherings
Gift Tags
Greeting Cards
Holidays
Landfill
LED
Paper
Real
Recycle
Season
Snow
Travel
Trees
Upcycle
Waste
Wrapping

J A C L J S U H S E N Q R I R R A Q C B
U G E B D B W S A Y L O J I R Y I U B X
E D D Y W Q J R L B A C S F N R Z A R N
H M E T X M B F C Y K D Y A J X E F L Y
B S C Y A D Z E V A K J I C E A I A J B
W I O S A R T I F I C I A L E S U N L V
W R R G Y D L W A S T E I L O R V N K R
U E A K B O L E N E R G Y Q J H T N Q N
Z M T P M C I X O F Z M K L W S Z S V L
P U I X P A F B S Y E L C Y C P U L E P
A S O F U I D K X S U Z R S M Z S V I S
P N N H B N N S E E R T Z N S N A G G O
E O S O N R A G W U O K B O K R I N A A
R C T N Q G L I K H O I P W T F I H S H
S D R A C G N I T E E R G A T R U M F S
K U H M M I S S L V A G A T E H B C D U
L N O U Q Q L F O T N Q A H Y Y H Z Z V
W F Y L J T Y A M M P G T L P G D E K I
J T S Z I C F H F J S A S U D I P J V F
Z C H E P E W V R H G S P Y U E W P C Y

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CTEPO wishes you a wonderful holiday season and we are excited to see you all in the new year! Cheers to 2024!