Reclaim Your Holidays

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Be it resolved - I will de-clutter in 2017

2017 offers a grand opportunity to fulfill your new year’s resolution to de-clutter. But where to start? Consider these suggestions & lots more with the links:

- [Start with just 5 minutes](http://zenhabits.net) of de-cluttering today, 5 minutes tomorrow from [Zen Habits](http://zenhabits.net).
- Create a [3-Box Sorting System](http://budgetdumpster.com) from BudgetDumpster and ask yourself: Does this item work? when did I last use it?
- Clear off just one counter today.
- Try the Oprah Winfrey [Closet Hanger Experiment](http://becomingminimalist.com) on the [Becoming Minimalist](http://becomingminimalist.com) site.

What to do with our stuff?

Step 1: De-Clutter. Step 2: What to do with the stuff that is no longer useful to you? RYH trainers, do your audiences ask you this question? You might try these organizations to get started. This [web site](http://donationtown.org) helps locate organizations in Iowa that pick up donations of clothing, furniture, toys, shoes, household items, and more. Your audiences could also try [Freestore.org](http://freestore.org) or [Personal Creations blog](http://personalcreations.com).

Year-round repurposing ideas

Fun-to-make repurposed gifts offer RYH audiences year-round ways to help protect our environment. You’ll find inspiration from wine cork trivets to fleece coat pocket warmers. These ideas come from [EcoConsumer](http://ecconsumer.org), King County (Seattle) Solid Waste organization. Thanks to Tom Watson and his team!

Second-hand is in!

Reclaim Your Holidays is funded by the REAP
The slogan "Being not Buying" can encourage your audiences to think before they buy any time of the year. Whether it's spring clothes, garden supplies, or the latest gadget, many people find useful second-hand items. Today's teens and young adults seem to gravitate to second-hand stores because new stuff uses more natural resources. Older adults may connect second-hand things with childhood memories. Whatever your motivation, many online resources (like Recyclart.org, Freecycle.org) provide novel ideas for second-hand items.

Bale of straw? A bat house? And other innovative gifts

When people are asked about their winter holiday celebrations, the responses explode! This RYH handout shares innovative gift ideas from Iowans. You and your audiences might consider any of these for other celebrations - birthdays, Valentine's Day, anniversaries. What are your ideas? Share them on the RYH Facebook page!

How did your holidays go?

The RYH Five-Minute Assessment Tool helps audiences discover what activities they liked, or didn't like, during the winter holidays. Early in the new year is a good time to reflect on the joy you got from certain activities. It's a time to consider reshaping holidays to create what you want. It's an easy tool to use with a group or with individuals.

Watch our web site for a new look coming soon! We're making more connections with our partner project now called "The Secret Lives of Stuff." You can help your RYH audiences better understand how their stuff affects quality of life and natural resources.

Thanks for your work with Reclaim Your Holidays!

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