

GrantStream Quarterly

Sharing knowledge, insights and experience

Special Holiday Edition

IT'S DECEMBER, that strange time of year when hand-knit, reindeer-embossed sweaters suddenly become fashionable and tins of assorted —

and sometimes dubious — home-baked goods appear in coffee rooms. Yes, the holidays are just around the corner. Decorated trees, fake snow and plastic forest animals have already started to appear in the lobby. And the ra-pa-pum-pum of a boy with his drum is (unfortunately to some) never that far out of earshot.

Don't be too distracted by all this festive madness. There are simple things you can do to give back, celebrate the



Season's Greetings from all of us at GrantStream
From left to right: Richard, Helen, Matthew, Josh, Joe, Monique, Rob, Elena and Wally.

season and get yourself and your office into the holiday spirit. So join the sweater wearing, carol humming, fruitcake ingesting throng and run some of these

quick and easy activities at your company to give the season its intended meaning. And don't forget to practice a few holiday green tips to help yourself feel good this season and keep our planet merry.

Whether you're celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or just a much needed break from the office, we hope you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season. ✨

Holiday Green Tips

Recycle, recycle, recycle

Wrapping paper, holiday cards, your tree, your jokes....they can all be recycled. You could also think of creative ways to reuse the paper and cards from previous years!

Buy local

Just how many air miles does one turkey have to collect before it lands on your dinner table? Does South America really grow a better yam? Think about buying local, supporting Canadian farmers and reducing the environmental impact of food products with international stamps on their passports!

Conserve energy

It's supposed to be cold in the winter so turn down your thermostat by one degree and put on that reindeer sweater! Consider replacing your old holiday lights with those new-fangled, high efficiency LED ones. They're 80-90% more efficient and provide 200,000 hours (that's 23 years!!!!!!) of light! Oh, and they're virtually unbreakable.

When you put out your new lights, get one of those fancy outdoor timers that turns the lights on when it gets dark and shuts them off automatically after 4 hours. Trust me, your neighbours will appreciate the lack of an all-night light show! And all these things will have a positive impact on your electricity bill.

Share the Cheer Ideas to give everyone a happy holiday

Buon Natale Kuwa na Xismasi njema Szochdestoom Krístovim Weselych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia

Season's Greetings Meilleurs Voeux Felices Fiestas Froehliche Weihnachten

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Guess for gelt

Here's a really quick and easy fundraiser. Fill a large jar with gold-foil wrapped chocolate coins or balls and ask people to guess how many there are. Guesses cost a loonie or a toonie. The proceeds go to a charity of your choice. Put the jar in the lobby to encourage all your visitors to get involved. Take it around the departments as well; just to make sure everyone has a chance to enter their guess. The winner gets the jar and its contents! And the charity gets the gelt.

Random acts of giving

This isn't a group activity and you can do it all year round. Hold the door open for someone. Let someone with one or two items cut ahead of you in line. Drop some coins in the donations' box as you pass. Make peace with someone you've fought with. And smile. It's catching.

Here we come a'wassailing

Centuries ago wassailers were treated to a nice hot beverage for their caroling efforts. While it may not be appropriate to expect to get your wassail bowl filled at the office, I guarantee your choral efforts will be rewarded with broad smiles, laughter and possibly heckling. Sing to your colleagues. Sing to the company across the hall or in the building next door. And hey, if they pay you to stop singing, just pass that money straight on through to charity. (There are no losers with this one! Okay — that could be debatable.)

Oh, bring us some figgy pudding!

You may not have four hours to steam 10 pounds of figs and assorted fruit, but there are other options. Contact your local soup kitchen or food bank to see what's on their shopping list this year. Then issue the challenge. Which department will weigh-in with the heaviest food donation?

The gift of clothing from Christmas past

I mentioned the reindeer-embossed hand-knit sweater already. Well, you may not want to part with that, but I'm sure there are many other items in your family's closet that are collecting dust. Why not let someone in need put them to good use? Organize a clothing drive at your office. Contact your local Salvation Army or Women's Shelter, find out what they need and get started.

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Have a safe and happy holiday season.



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