

# Tips for a Greener Holiday



## Decorating

- Use natural greenery (e.g., tree trimmings), pine cones, berries, etc.
- Consider a living, potted tree that can be planted or repotted as it grows.
- Use soy candles, which burn cleaner and longer and are more sustainable.
- Use LED holiday lights, which are 80% more efficient than non-LEDs. You can recycle your old lights at the ECO table in December and January (first Sunday).

## Gifts

- Give consumables like food, skin care products, restaurant gift certificates.
- Give experiences like theater tickets and memberships to museums.
- Give locally made products and services.
- Give products that are organic, fairly traded, sustainably made, etc.
- Give contributions to charities in someone's name.
- Give recyclable batteries and a charger.
- For more ideas see <http://www.sustainablebabysteps.com/green-gift-giving.html>

## Wrapping

- Use old maps, comics, children's artwork, etc.
- Make gorgeous gift bags out of old calendars: <http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/what-happy-families-know/yes-but-how-gift-bag-your-calendar>
- Re-use wrapping paper, gift bags and ribbons.
- Make gift tags out of old holiday cards.

## Food

- Eat local, organic, fair trade
- Consider eating less meat overall so that you can afford to buy grass-fed beef, free range poultry, etc. for those special meals.
- Compost food waste (except meats, dairy, fats and oils). See <http://www.homecompostingmadeeasy.com/foodscraps.html>
- Consider buying a subscription to a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) for yourself or as a gift. See <http://www.localharvest.org/csa/> for information on nearby CSA's.

## Afterward

- Recycle packaging like Styrofoam, bubble wrap at shipping stores. See partial list at <http://www.c3huu.org/recycling----1st-sundays-and-more.html>.
- Recycle wrapping paper with mixed paper if it does not have foil in it.
- Save cards for ECO's collection on Jan. 1, Feb. 5, & March 5.
- Save gift bags, ribbons, wrapping paper, etc. for re-use.

See [http://eartheasy.com/give\\_sustainchristmas.htm](http://eartheasy.com/give_sustainchristmas.htm) for lots more ideas!