

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 95% more efficient than non-LEDs. You can recycle your old lights at the electronics trailer at the Waste Recycling Center on Eubanks Rd.
- Turn off your holiday lights at bedtime.

Gifts

- Give consumables like food, skin care products, 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.

Wrapping

- Use old maps, comics, children's artwork, etc.
- Make gorgeous gift bags out of old calendars: <https://idohaveataalent.wordpress.com/2011/08/17/upcycle-calendar-to-gift-bag/>
- 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 <https://www.localharvest.org/csa/> for information on nearby CSA's.

Afterward

- Recycle wrapping paper with mixed paper if it does not have foil in it.
- Save bubble wrap for re-use, recycle or save cardboard
- Place your tree at the curb for pickup and shredding
- Save gift bags, ribbons, wrapping paper, etc. for re-use.
See <https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/how-to-have-a-green-christmas/#lowerimpact> for lots more ideas!