



Greening Your Christmas

It's never too early to be thinking about Christmas because it takes time to plan a greener event. It is the relationships and time spent together that really matter; "stuff" is not that important. This year make memories, not clutter. How can you reduce, reuse and recycle during the holiday season?

Gift Ideas

- Give the gift of experience like theatre, movie, concert or dinner theatre tickets or a gift certificate at a local restaurant for dessert and coffee.
- Give a gift with meaning like an acre of rainforest or a donation on a recipient's behalf.
- Give a living gift with a gift certificate at a local green house for a backyard tree or seedlings for the vegetable or flower garden
- Gift certificate for fresh bread every week from a local baker.
- Use shredded paper instead of bubble wrap to package parcels.
- Decide to anti-gift and enjoy each other instead. Watch the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life", play board games, sing Christmas carols.
- Volunteer at a local charity such as a soup kitchen, Santa Anonymous, Food Bank
- Think local – buy from local and independent businesses, which will affect further local economic activity.
- Support local artisans and buy gifts at local craft shows.
- Make gifts like cookies, dry bean soups (just add water) or other recipes that only need only a few fresh items to be added.
- Give green gifts like a backyard composter, rain barrel, fair-trade coffee, fair-trade chocolate, fair-trade handicrafts, a book about straw bale houses, a solar energy charger or a library membership.
- Wrap gifts in old posters, reuse wrapping paper, comic or magazine pages, and pieces of cloth or stuff into a reusable shopping bag.

Hosting Ideas

- Break the habit of disposable dishes for big crowds at dinner. Yes, they are convenient, but ask your neighbours and friends for extra dishes. Use cloth napkins.
- Use LED lights on the tree and reduce the amount of lights on the outside of your home. Consider a timer to reduce the amount of time the lights are on.
- Use fresh boughs to decorate your home.
- Recycle your living Christmas tree.

Did you Know?

- In Canada the annual waste from gift-wrap and shopping bags equals about 545,000 tonnes.
- If every family in Canada reduced its weekly waste during the holidays by just one kilogram, 34,000 tonnes of garbage would be eliminated.
- If everyone in Canada wrapped just three gifts in reused paper or gift bags, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 hockey rinks.

It takes time to plan a “green” Christmas. Choose one simple act to do this year.

Success Stories

We all have a story. And we all have successes. Catch up on some of the Success Stories on the One Simple Act [website](#). We are waiting for your story.

Together, we make a difference, one simple act at a time. **Inspire others by sharing what you do to be greener for Christmas** on the One Simple Act website, [Add Your Voice](#).