

Tips for Green Holiday Shopping

- **If you must shop, shop as close to home as possible in an area where stores are near each other.** Better yet, carpool with a friend or take public transportation.
- **Consider giving a gift that is eco-friendly, such as; items made with recycled content, items that are locally produced, organic, and/or fair-trade.** Shop at nearby farmers markets, craft fairs, nurseries, and locally-owned stores.
- **Give gifts that encourage others to use less stuff, like a book about making crafts from reusable items, a cookbook for leftovers, or a re-usable carry-out container.**
- **Purchase gifts that are long-lasting or that can be reused and later recycled.** **Look for gifts that don't require batteries.** If you must buy a product that needs batteries, buy rechargeable batteries and give them with the gift.
- **Give the gift of apps to kids with smartphones.**
- **Used gifts are kinder to the environment.** Consider giving vintage and used clothing, books, DVDs, CDs, sports equipment, tools, cameras, children's toys, musical instruments, etc.
- **Online shopping:** keeps you off the roads, but consider how far your purchases have to travel to get to you.
- **Give gift certificates to local museums, concerts, restaurants, theaters etc.**
- **Give a local gift:** get your favorite gardener a garden plot in a local community garden.
- **Make your own gifts:** edible gifts such as breads, cookies, cakes, dried fruits, nut mixes, canned goods, jams/jellies, or herbed vinegars make fantastic gifts. Use your arts and crafts skills to knit a scarf, crochet a hat or mittens, paint a watercolor, or design your own jewelry. Make a calendar by using family photos marked with important dates.
- **Make a donation to a non-profit organization in the name of your loved one.**
- **Instead of buying a gift, give your time and talent to your loved ones this year.**
- **Plan a "re-gift" swap with your like-minded friends and family.**
- **Bring your own reusable tote bag when shopping.**