



Have a holly, jolly, GHG FREE Holiday Season

With so much potential waste around the holiday season it can be difficult to celebrate with an environmentally-friendly edge. Here are some tips for caring for the environment while you enjoy the holidays:

🌿 Gifts – Give environmentally-friendly gifts that don't increase waste.

Some ideas are:

- Homemade gifts (jams or wine)
- Tickets to a local event
- Gift cards for a local organic restaurant
- Certificates for classes (cooking or joga)
- A green book from a local book store
- A subscription to a green magazine
- A donation to an environmental charity (like the Manitoba Eco-Network)
- Active transportation gear (bike helmet, a good pair of winter boots, or a pannier).
- Make your own voucher (good for a night of free babysitting)
- Passes to a local venue like FortWhyte Alive or the Manitoba Museum



🌿 Shopping – If you are out shopping make sure you: take the bus, bring your own reusable bag to the store, try to stay away from gifts that require batteries, try to buy items that will last, look at labels to see where the items are made, and buy minimally packaged goods.

🌿 Wrapping - Don't use paper to wrap your gifts. Put them in a reusable bag, box, or wrap them up in old holiday cards, drawings from your kids, or a second gift like a scarf or hat. Or make a scavenger hunt to a hidden unwrapped gift! If you do get presents wrapped in paper, save the wrap and use it next year.

🌿 Holiday lights – Use light-emitting diodes (LED) lights. LEDs are 90 percent more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs. Only use your outdoor lights for a few hours a day or when you are having company – make sure you turn your light off at night.

🌿 Holiday decoration - Decorate your home with natural ornaments: pine boughs, evergreen branches, cranberries, popcorn, and fruit. Dress up candles for the holidays with pine cones or bows. Get your kids to help out by making paper snowflakes.

🌿 Festive eating – If you are planning on eating a big dinner, make the dinner an organic local feast. Buy a local organic turkey! Check out 100 mile Manitoba for local food sources. Make sure you compost left over holiday foods.

🌿 Transportation – Stay local! Instead of darting across the country to visit relatives, hang out in Manitoba and have a local celebration. You can organize a carpool to and from a party. You'll reduce on the amount of gas emissions in the air and get to sing carols together on the way there!

🌿 Holiday parties - At holiday parties – especially with large crowds – the temptation to use disposable dishes, glasses, and napkins is great. But opt for ceramic dishes, actual glasses, and cloth napkins. You'll be reducing your garbage and decreasing your holiday footprint.

🌿 Cards - This year consider going paper-free. Direct friends to your family blog or create a free multiphoto card or an online slideshow. You can add holiday music, snowflakes and bits of text, and then e-mail friends and family a link.