

10 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS MORE SUSTAINABLE

The holiday season is a time of warmth and cheer for many people, and a time to celebrate with colleagues, friends, and family. Unfortunately, this can also be a time of excessive waste and consumption of natural resources. Here are simple tips to make your holiday more sustainable—and enjoyable!

1. BUY A LIVE TREE WITH A BALLED ROOT:



You can buy a balled and burlapped tree that can be planted outdoors after the holiday season is over. We recommend balsam fir or Colorado blue spruce.

2. CONSERVE ENERGY WITH LED LIGHTS AND A TIMER:

Lower your energy bill and conserve energy with LED lights for your tree. LED lights use 90% less energy than incandescent bulbs and can last up to 100,000 hours. A self-timer also helps save energy by turning off lights when not in use.



3. "GREEN" YOUR DECORATIONS:



Spruce up your home for the holidays with homemade decorations, like ornaments made of pinecones, mistletoe made of holly, or garlands made of cranberries. Mason jar snowglobes are great projects for kids!

4. GIVE SUSTAINABLE GIFTS:

35% of Americans have an unused holiday gift sitting in their closets. Give your family gifts they'll love—whether it's a homemade craft or an experience, like a theater ticket or a camping trip. For gifts, buy local and vintage to reduce waste.



5. USE RECYCLED PAPER FOR CARDS:

Did you know that 2.65 billion holiday cards are sold in the United States each year? That's enough to fill a football field 10 stories high. Buy recycled paper cards— or make your own!

6. WRAP IT RIGHT:

If every American family wrapped just 3 presents in reused materials, it would save enough paper the size of 45,000 football fields. Use reusable materials to wrap gifts, like baskets or bags. For paper, use newspaper, old maps, or brown paper decorated with glitter.



7. REUSE AND RECYCLE BOXES AND PACKAGING:

If you get any gifts covered in wrapping paper, reuse the paper for your own gifts. Recycle what you can't reuse with your regular paper and cardboard recycling.



8. BUY LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD AND DRINKS:



On average, food travels 1,500 miles from farm to table. Support local businesses, farms, cider mills, wineries, and breweries by shopping locally for your holiday dinners.

9. USE REUSABLE DISHES AND UTENSILS:

Skip the disposable dishes and utensils and reduce the waste from your holiday meal. Instead, opt for reusable plates, cups, and utensils— plus they'll look nicer!



10. EAT (OR DONATE) YOUR LEFTOVERS:

Get a head count before cooking your holiday meal, in order to eliminate excess food waste. Invite guests to bring reusable containers to take home leftovers.

NASSAU COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WWW.NASSAUSWCD.ORG • 516-364-5860
"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY SOILS & CLEAN WATER"

