



You Asked About...

Last Minute - Green Christmas Gift Ideas

Here are some ideas on how to make your holiday more sustainable. Remember to get off to a good start by taking your reusable shopping bags with you when you head to the stores.

For the Gardener on Your List - Consider a plant or a gift certificate for a garden centre. Go naked (packaging free) and tuck the gift certificate into a pair of good gardening gloves and tie with a raffia, paper or fabric bow.

Give the Gift of Food - A basket of homemade cookies and candy are always a hit with kids and adults alike. Can't cook, don't bake ... how about a basket of local and/or fair trade food items. Forgo the usual paper or plastic basket stuffing and stuff the basket with a Christmas tea towel or hand towel.

How About a Gift That Supports a Cause - Such as a calendar that supports a charity in your area e.g., animal shelter, or consider Fair Trade items such as those that can be found at Ten Thousand Villages and Unicef, or consider "adopting" an animal through the World Wildlife Fund.

For a Family Gift - How About a "Night at the Movies" Basket - Tuck gift certificates from the local video store into a popcorn bowl or basket filled microwave popcorn, popcorn seasoning and theatre candy like licorice, jujubes, gummy candy and candy coated chocolates etc.

For Anyone - Give the gift of an "experience" such as a spa visit, tickets to the theatre or a sporting event, or download gift cards for music or books.

For a Friend or Coworker - A good backpack to encourage active transportation (it's hard to walk or bus when you are lugging tonnes of "junk" in both directions).

For the Adults - LED night lights. They are cool to the touch (i.e. safer) and use just pennies a year worth of electricity. Look for them in local hardware stores.

For Anyone - "Wind-up" radios and flashlights. Good emergency gear for anyone and great for the little ones. The wind-up feature acts as a built in "automatic shut-off" that cuts down on the need for parents to creep around in the dark and turn off the "what-nots".

For the Tweens and Teens - Movie tickets are always a hit. Empire Theatre tickets are available at Sobey's stores and can be used for movies, the IMAX and concessions.

For the Kids - If you are purchasing a gift that requires batteries, include rechargeable ones as part of the gift.

For the Little Ones - there are LED night lights and flashlights that regularly cycle through a rainbow of colours. (Note: we have it on good authority that some are "magic" - guaranteed to ward off monsters and other unwanted night creatures)