



***Wishing You
a **Green**
Christmas
from the **IPCC*****

Top Tips for a Green Christmas

Christmas doesn't have to be a burden on the environment. With a little effort and imagination, we can reduce the environmental impact of the holiday season. Here are some ideas to help you celebrate the season while caring for the earth.

1. Buy Smart - think 'green': Buy locally made gifts, decorations and food supplies as far as possible to reduce the impact of transportation on the environment. Choose gifts made from recycled materials if you can.



2. Reduce packaging on food by buying loose fruit and vegetables. Buy biscuits and sweets in reusable glass jars or tins.



3. Buy "good natured gifts" such as a subscription to the IPCC Save the Bogs Campaign. You could also Sponsor the purchase of an Acre of Bog or Adopt a Frog. Follow this link for more ideas:
<http://www.ipcc.ie/nature-shop/>.



4. Make your own decorations and crackers using as much recycled card and paper as possible and making all the gifts inside from natural materials.



5. Make your own Christmas Cards reusing as much material as possible such as old cards, ribbons, bows, calendar photos etc. They will be much appreciated and unique. Buy re-use labels to recycle used envelopes when sending the home made cards.



More Tips for a Green Christmas



6. Reuse wrapping, magazine or news paper for wrapping presents. You can make small boxes from used cards and gift tags too.

7. Give a battery re-charger and rechargeable batteries for battery-operated toys and gadgets. Or better still do not buy gifts that need batteries.



8. Stop food waste over the Christmas holidays by only purchasing and cooking what you need.



9. Compost all vegetable waste and cooked food (except meat) from the Christmas meals.

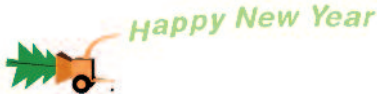


Recycle



10. Recycle all of your Christmas waste including bottles, cans, plastic, cards, paper, boxes and cartons in your recycling bin or bring them to you local recycling facility.

11. Recycle your Christmas Tree. Many communities offer Christmas tree shredding services. Think about getting a potted live Christmas tree which you can plant in the garden after the holidays. Another idea is for the family to plant a tree to replace the Christmas tree taken to decorate your home.



Last Few Tips for a Green Christmas

12. Save energy by reducing the size of outdoor lighting displays and using LED bulbs in all your lit decorations. Turn off lights when you go to bed. If you are feeling cold put on a woolly jumper, socks and long johns, rather than turning up the heat!



13. Feed the birds - a bird feeder is a good present at any time, but a great one for Christmas. Why not decorate a tree outside in the garden for the birds using seed bells, suet balls, pine cones with peanut butter and seed trays and feeders.

14. Get out for a long walk over the holiday period to appreciate the beautiful countryside that surrounds us - and to see as much wildlife as possible. If you'd like to visit a bog why not download a copy of the Peatland Passport for Ireland developed by the IPCC (see www.ipcc.ie).



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