

# How to have a 'green' Christmas

Christmas is a time for giving, festivities and celebration with family and friends. This time also provides us with a great opportunity to acknowledge that we are all stewards of the earth and we have the responsibility to instil values of sustainable living to our children, friends and family.

Below are tips on how to have a more sustainable, 'green' Christmas and create an earth-friendly Christmas family tradition!

- Make your own Christmas cards by reusing cardboard paper.
- Buy Christmas cards that are made of recycled materials and the recycle them again, or send electronic greeting cards via email.
- Wrap gifts with recycled wrapping paper and reuse materials such as ribbon.
- Get the children to decorate the wrapping paper if colour is needed.
  - Buy sustainable gifts, gifts with minimal packaging and gifts which don't require short life batteries.
  - Give a unique gift from a charity or environmental organisation that benefits more than one recipient.
  - Use Christmas lights and other appliances for limited time periods only, and turn off overnight (have them set on a timer).
    - Replace old Christmas lights with energy efficient options such as LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights, which use up 95% less energy than traditional bud lighting and have a longer life.
- Reduce the size of outdoor lighting displays.
- Recycle or compost all of your Christmas waste.
- Buy locally made gifts and locally grown produce to support the local economy and reduce impacts associated carbon intensive transportation.
- Make the switch to accredited green power for your electricity supply as a new years resolution. This will support clean renewable energy sourced from the sun, wind and waste, which helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Enjoy an organic Christmas lunch; organic produce is produced naturally using sustainable agricultural practices without artificial fertilisers, pesticides or growth promoters.
- Have a meat and dairy free day at least once over the Christmas period and reduce the size of your Ecological Footprint [www.sustainableliving.sa.gov.au](http://www.sustainableliving.sa.gov.au)



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