



SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAY IDEAS from the FCCB Climate Justice Team

The holidays are upon us! We can reduce consumption by using renewable resources and repurposing objects. Celebrations can be a time of sustainable traditions and helping the environment.

Here are some fun ideas for “greening” your holidays.

DECORATIONS

- Use LED lights and a timer. They are 90% more efficient and last longer.
- Reduce the number of strands and recycle them at box stores that offer holiday light exchange programs.
- Skip tinsel and plastic ornaments.
- Make edible ornaments like seed balls, suet, and pinecones with peanut butter to hang in your yard. *(Remember that in bear country bird feeding activities are December to April.)*
- Collect natural objects, such as acorns, berries, and pinecones to make centerpieces and wreaths.
- Visit the FCCB Possibility Shop – Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 3pm) for items that are reused and recycled... a great source of endless creativity!
- Donate what you no longer need.

GIFTS

- Wrap gifts with brown paper bags, newspaper or reused wrapping paper.
- Personalize gifts wrapped plainly with stamps or drawings. Gift bags and baskets are great alternatives.
- Tie a large bow around an item or wrap in tins, planting pots or new dish towels.
- Give baked goods, plants, classes, artworks, knit a scarf, crochet mittens...
- Patronize local businesses and artisans.
- When gifting appliances or electronics – make sure that they are Energy Star certified. If you give a gift that requires batteries, include rechargeable ones with the gift.
- Donate in someone’s name to the church Christmas Mission Offering, to charities or conservation organizations.
- Give your time and talent as a gift to help others or to volunteer.
- Give the gift of experiences.

FOOD

- Shop your local farmers markets for specialty sauces, jams, cider and meat.

- Use local produce in holiday recipes.
- Use cloth napkins and reusable utensils, cups and plates.
- Buy in bulk. Bring your own, reusable containers and tote bag.
- Compost food scraps and donate leftover food to local food banks or shelters.

OTHER TIPS

- Decorate a locally grown live tree that can be planted outside after the holidays.
- Beware of artificial trees that may contain toxins such as PVC.
- Recycle your tree into chip mulch.
- Email cards and invites or make them from recycled paper.
- Set out recycling bins at holiday events.
- Carpool.

Have an idea to add to this list? Please send it to info@firstchurchburlington.org – subject “For Climate Corner” – thank you!

Have a safe and sustainable holiday and share eco-friendly practices with family and friends. As Christ led by example and inspired us, let us do the same by making “green” choices.

In faith,
The Climate Justice Team at FirstChurchBTV