

Ideas for Green Holidays

What to avoid....

- Avoid petrol products whenever possible and chose alternate materials to plastic.
- Don't buy gifts produced using slave labor or sweat shops and animal cruelty
- Avoid low quality children's toys that have a short life and quickly grace the landfill
- avoid the frivolous, the excessive, the useless (for the person "who has everything")

What to look for....

- Shop locally, support local businesses
- Shop fair trade because it makes a difference
- Give environmentally friendly gifts such as sold here at GoGreen
- Give gently used clothing items and accessories (U-Turn Resale Boutique on North Ave)
- Try non-material gifts: make up coupons for services like car wash, backrubs, babysitting,
- Gifts to spend time together, like cooking dinner for friends, going to a show, opera, movie, concert, sports event or game night. The gift of time together goes a long way in our busy days!
- Gift cards and gift certificates to favorite coffee houses or a nursery to buy plants for spring
- Give a house plant. Plants make the air fresher and are a continuing source of joy.
- Yoga lessons, massage, a spa day, music lessons, or a long wished for family instead of material gifts are nice. Wauwatosa offers many places for such services.
- Family games

Making useful gifts....

- Easy projects: Cookies, hot chocolate mix, preserves
- More advanced projects: make a cook book with your favorite rec. for a friend, make soap, candles, sew an apron for your little helper, crochet potholders or wash cloths, scarves, hats

Gift Wrapping

- Use cloth pieces, scarves, new dish towels, t-shirts, the cartoon page of the newspaper, colored magazine pages

Trees

- Get a potted tree for later planting, bows or branches, or an artificial tree which lasts forever
- Use LED lights. The use 75% less energy
- Go easy on the outside displays (we know it is Christmas)!

Holiday Greeting Cards

- Try the creative side of your brain and make your own cards with recycled paper, get your kids on it and you will be surprised!
- Send mail electronically – this saves trees and energy for transportation

Be a friend....

- Many people have, for all kinds of reasons, a very hard time over the holidays. Open your home and include them in your celebration. This is the best gift you can give to them and yourself!

