

## Green Tips for the Holiday

These come from Newsweek. I realize that some of these may be too late!

Lights- Buy strings of LED lights, which look the same as conventional, but last longer, use 80-90% less energy and are safer because they barely warm up.

Timer- Use a timer for house and tree lights to avoid keeping them on all night and during the day when you're not there.

Shopping-Instead of coming home with 15 shopping bags, bring your own. I always do now and feel really good about it!

Wrapping-Instead of buying your paper, get creative with what you have around the house. Wrap gifts in posters, decorated grocery store bags, pages from magazines. If you must use paper, buy recycled wrapping paper from fishlipspaperdesign.com or paperorganics.com (they also sell biodegradable ribbon).

Trees- Go for the real one- fake trees are petroleum based. You can buy or rent a live tree (livingchristmastrees.org) or if you get a cut tree, make sure that it gets recycled afterwards, where it will be turned into mulch. The "greenest" Christmas tree is a live tree in a pot, which you can plant in your yard afterwards.

Cards-Consider going paper-free- or display your holiday pictures on line with an online slideshow on photobucket.com.

Parties-Use real glasses and dishes, or if disposable plates, pick up recyclable paper plates, not plastic or Styrofoam.

### ***More Earth friendly holiday ideas***

- ***While shopping, bring your own bags and consolidate your purchases into one bag rather than getting a new bag at each store.***
- ***Plan your shopping in advance to save fuel***
- ***Reuse gift bags again and again***
- ***Think of gifts that don't have to be wrapped***
- ***Make the gift part of the wrap such as hiding jewelry in a new pair of gloves***
- ***Save holiday cards for gift tags or create new cards from the old one***

- *Use a timer for house and tree lights to avoid keeping them on all night*
- *Use and purchase rechargeable batteries*
- *Shop online and don't use your car. You'll avoid spending time looking for parking space in a crowded mall.*

***Food for thought:***

- *If each family reduced holiday gas consumption by one gallon, we would reduce greenhouse gas emission by 1 million tons!! Yikes!*
- *If every family reused two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet!*

***Last minute green gift ideas!***

- *House plant*
- *Theater tickets*
- *Cloth shopping bag*
- *Reusable coffee cup*
- *Quilts and comforters*
- *Gift basket filled with non-toxic household cleaners*
- *Shut-off time for watering the lawn*
- *Personalized coupons such as night off of doing dishes, a foot massage, etc.*
- *Reusable razor*
- *Stationery made from recycled paper*
- *And of course fluorescent light bulbs*