

Green Living Gift Giving Guide

A gift from the Henking/Hoffman Green Team

Enjoy these tips and resources for greening the holidays! And check out the coupons online!

Our environmental focus this school year is **REDUCING**, but we don't mean reducing fun!

- **Reduce your car use** – research products online, call ahead to check store inventory or purchase online.
- **Reduce packaging** – use less and encourage retailers who use less, too.
- **Reduce gift wrap waste** by purchasing recycled or recyclable wrapping paper or using reusable gift bags. Remember, if the gift wrap is shiny, it can't be recycled!
- **Reduce shopping bags** – remember to load your car with several reusable bags before you hit the stores.

HANDMADE GIFTS show off your talents -- everyone loves a gift created especially for them! Watch for craft fairs in your area and support local artists. Also, check the web for buy-and-sell sites offering vintage and handmade items.

Review your gift list and ask, is there a **greener alternative**? Sneakers with recycled rubber are a great example! Bamboo or modal sheets & towels, or even clothes -- there are lots of green alternatives!

Give an EXPERIENCE ~ buy one ticket for them and one for you! It's the ultimate "stuff" eliminator and a chance to spend good time together.

- ❖ Buy **theater or concert tickets** –downtown or local, like the Center for Performing Arts and Marriott Lincolnshire Theater.
- ❖ Sign up for a class together at The Grove.
- ❖ Don't forget the **sports fans**: tickets to see the Blackhawks, Bulls, Bears, White Sox, Cubs, Northwestern Wildcats, or Depaul Blue Demons
- ❖ For **silly fun**: an afternoon at painting ceramics or playing laser tag
- ❖ For **stretching your legs**: open gym at the Park District, swimming at Splash Landings, rock climbing at a local sporting good store
- ❖ Recreate your favorite Food Network show and give a coupon to spend the afternoon playing with icing or cooking a gourmet meal for the family.
- ❖ Maybe it's time for **sleepover camp**? Give a solar or hand crank lantern now, and promise a week of fun later.



You've got **SKILLS** – now offer them to someone else. A coupon for babysitting, handyman tasks, breakfast in bed, pet-washing – your gift is only limited by your imagination (and your skills).

We love to consume at this time of year – so shower your friends and family with **CONSUMABLE GIFTS**:  organic foods (especially chocolate), houseplants, natural soaps and beauty products – truly a luxury. Baking kits are always fun for the up and coming baker: check out the kid kits from King Arthur Flour. And do you have a gourmet chef in the family? Try grow-your-own fresh herbs, infused organic oils or a mushroom-growing kit! Add a yummy recipe!

HOSTING a party? Reusable plates, glasses, napkins and flatware are always the best choice for the Earth. If you need a few extra, try borrowing from friends, neighbors and family or renting from your local party rental store– it might be less expensive than you think! Plates run about \$7/dozen, wine/water glasses about \$6.50/dozen, and flatware about \$5/dozen. Also, consider bio-degradable supplies made out of 100% sugar can fiber - available at your local organic foods retailer or try online (50 dinner plates for \$9, 50 cups for \$7). If offering water bottles at a party, provide a few permanent markers for labeling to reduce misplaced and half-empty bottles!

Buzz Words to know: Buy local, organic, Fair Trade/Equal Exchange, sustainable, 100% biodegradable, 100% post-consumer, non-toxic, recycled, thrifted, gently used, or eco-anything. Support local retailers!

Give the gift of Class! **CLASSES**, that is. Try your local knit shop for a knitting class, cooking classes, voice lessons, painting or drawing lessons, a piano or private instrument lesson, or even skating lessons. Just one class can delight and inspire!

MEMBERSHIPS are gifts that give all year. Include a promise to take the recipient there (by mass transit, of course):

- The Planetarium for the star-gazer, a museum pass for the curious
- The Botanic Garden for the greenie and nature walkers
- The Brookfield Zoo for the wild at heart
- The Park Center gym to give New Year's resolutions an early start

Consider purchasing **rechargeable batteries** and a charger for all of your electronics! Don't forget to pick up the remote recharger for the Wii.

Book a poolside **STAYCATION** – wrap up some goggles or a beach towel and surprise them with a reservation at a hotel with a pool!

VINTAGE is a fabulous word for 'used' but don't let that scare you off! One person's no-longer-used-toy is another person's favorite gift. Check out **half.com** for new and used books at bargain prices, venture into **ebay.com** and see what you can save, or try **Craigslist.com** for local buy and sell.

Ideas to spark your imagination and make your own!

1. A large **dry erase board** with a variety of markers for hours of doodling and no wasted paper! Get a large one for the playroom wall or a small one for the car! Check the web to order non-toxic board cleaner.
2. **Radio Flyer Earth Wagon** – 100% recycled plastic.
3. **Shower Timer** – Waterproof with suction cups. Choose from a duck, turtle, blue star or green arrow. Add some shower gel or fun organic soap! Available online.
4. **Bird Feeder** – Daily fun all year around! Add some binoculars and a bird guide. Try your local retailer.
5. **Solar Powered Charger** – Use the sun to power by day and charge electronics by night. Take a minute to search the web for top rated products and reviews.
6. **Solar Toys** – Build it, charge it, play with it! Amphibious Vehicle, Attacking Inch Worm, Grasshopper, or double the fun with a couple of Race Cars. Search the web for solar powered toys and kits.
7. **Rebound!** – Wilson's basketball made from 40% recycled rubber – two points for the Green Team!
8. **Budda Board** – Laptop style pop-up surface, create art with water again and again. Available online.
9. **Build It** – Imaginations run wild with these brightly colored cardboard panels by Kidsonroof toys. Designed to build anything from spaceships to buildings! 100% recycled laminated cardboard, 120 panels. Online
10. **Playhouse** – Build, color and customize this awesome playhouse from Kidsonroof toys Made from 100% recycled cardboard, designed to fold flat and put away. Try the mini size for dolls and stuffed animals.
11. **Water Bottles** – This is a HOT gift for anyone on your list! Search the web for PBA free plastic and stainless steel reusable water bottles. Tons of cool designs make it easy to personalize to someone's style!
12. **National Wildlife Federation** – Adopt an endangered animal – adoption comes with a plush toy and certificate, a membership to the federation and a 1-yr. subscription to their full color nature magazine.
13. **Plant a Tree** – A gift that grows! For every purchase of a pewter ornament one tree will be planted on the recipients behalf in efforts to restore natural habitat and reduce global warming. Penguins, moose, squirrels, birds, trees and more - National Wildlife Federation.

Green shopping helps everyone . . .

1. **Online purchasing** – Most items get shipped, freighted, and packaged whether they end up in a store or in your home, so the relative footprints of buying at a chain store and buying online may be equivalent. However, if you're purchasing something that isn't made locally, shopping online at least cuts your personal fuel cost.
2. **New Parents?** – A membership in a kids' toy exchange is a great gift! Search online for one in your area.
3. **Hardcore Greenie?** – Or someone wanting to get their feet wet? Search the web for key words such as gifts from repurposed/recycled material, fair trade gifts, organic gifts, and environmentally friendly gifts for children. Purchasing these products is an easy way to increase the demand for products that reduce toxicity in our environment and encourage manufacturers to be more responsible!
4. **Marketplace** – The internet is a window to a marketplace for buying and selling all things handmade or vintage. You can find pottery, jewelry, soaps, purses, wallets, and so much more – try adding 'local' to your search and adding to your buying experience by learning more about the artist.
5. **Overstocks** – Although overstock items aren't necessarily green, they're already made, their footprint has already hit the ground, and your purchase will save one more (excellent yet previously unsold) item from finding the landfill. Search the web for overstocks and find tons of different items at a bargain price.
6. **Remake it, Recycle it!** – Kids love to build and create and what better way than with recycled material, bottle caps, fabric scraps and repurposed materials? Search for recycling kits for kids and *reduce* T.V. time!
7. **LED holiday lights** – Almost any seasonal holiday lights now come in an LED version, which will use up to 95% less electricity and won't emit heat. Available at most retailers that sell lights, look for LED.
8. **Cloth gift bags** – Going against tradition here, but cloth gift bags could help seriously cut down on trash. They're easy to make, easy to use, and the only down-side is no sound of kids gleefully ripping paper!
9. **Wish List** – Not to encourage anyone to be greedy, but gift lists help givers find much-wanted gifts. Purchasing gifts that will sit on the shelf or get tossed immediately don't help anyone's environment.
10. **TAKEBABYSTEPS.ORG** – offers a more detailed version of this list including specific product names, websites and valuable **COUPONS!** Visit this site today and print our money saving coupons from local retailers supporting our efforts to shop greener!!



1460 Waukegan Rd.
 Glenview, IL 847-729-4688
 wbu.com/glenview
 birdseed, feeders, birdbaths, optics
 and gifts

*10% off purchase with coupon.
 (excludes optics, expires 1/04/09)*

QuickTime™ and a
 TIFF (LZW) decompressor
 are needed to see this picture.



1766 Waukegan Rd. (at Chestnut)
 Glenview, IL 847-657-9020
 houseofrental.com

*10% off rental of glassware,
 flatware and china with coupon.
 (expires 1/04/09)*



1107 Waukegan Rd.
 Glenview, IL 847-657-1092
 sweetydreamsorganicbakery.com

*FREE small tea or coffee or FREE
 cookie with every purchase of a \$10
 or more gift certificate.
 (expires 1/04/09)*

WISHES DO COME TRUE AT WISHES!

Right here in Glenview, a new toy store with a focus on earth friendly toys and creative kits. When you visit the store look for the "Green Team Choice" toys. Purchase any item off the list and receive a FREE Go Green wooden bead bracelet!

BLUE ORANGE GAMES - planting two trees for every one they cut down to make their quality wooden toys.

RUBBABU - felt covered soft foam cars made from the natural sap of rubber trees. Great size for little hands and come in fun bright colors!

XEKO - 2007 Game of the Year award for the best interactive CARD game. Purchase a Xeko pal made of organic cotton and soy filling, comes with a mission code for online play! Purchase helps Conservation International.

PLAN TOYS - toys made out of recycled chemical free rubber wood. Very cool shopping cart for \$69.99 - plus fun groceries and food for "shopping" at home.

PINTOY - THE PRIZE! This company is amazing! It produces quality wooden toys that have great style and design. The wooden dollhouse comes with people AND furniture for \$149.00. Another favorite is the wooden castle that looks like years of fun. Other cool games are Pinball Planet and Labyrinth Planet. Toys are made from recovered rubber wood from latex plantations.

KARITO KIDS - dolls from around the world, styled much like American Girl Dolls. Purchase helps National Children's Charities and when you purchase one of the dolls your child can go online and direct the profit to the charity of their choice! Choose from Kenya, Mexico, Australia and the U.S.A. Books and clothes too.

CRESENT - (Wheeling, Il.) use colorful scrap paper from production of framing mattes to create Powder Art. Art kits are 100% recycled paper.

WISHES has a great selection of hands on toys like Build a Solar Car Kit, Paper

The Glen
 Iowa Center
 1885 Tower Dr.
 Glenview, IL
 847-657-WISH



WishesToyWonderland.com

*FREE Go Green wooden bead bracelet
 with purchase of an item from the
 "Green Team List" (\$7 value).
 Great gift or treat yourself!
 (expires 1/04/09)*