

Nine Tips For a Greener Christmas

- 1. Make some of your holiday gifts:** You'll save fuel used while shopping and every item you don't purchase means less energy going into the production, packaging and shipping of that item.
- 2. Buy reusable, rechargeable batteries:** Over 40% of battery sales are made during the holidays. Using rechargeable batteries will reduce the energy that goes into mining the metals, manufacturing, shipping and disposing of the batteries.
- 3. Buy locally and avoid over-packaging:** Buy locally produced items (reducing the energy used for transportation and supporting the local economy) or gifts of services. Also, if an item includes excessive packaging, or the product can not be easily recycled at the end of its life you might want to consider giving a different gift.
- 4. Recycle gift wrap:** Buy recycled papers, which use 60% less energy to produce than virgin paper (and generates 95% less air pollution) according to Earth911.com And recycle and/or reuse the paper, gift bags and ribbons from the gifts you receive.
- 5. Use LED Christmas lights:** LED Christmas lights reduce energy consumption by 80 to 90%
- 6. Lights out at 10 PM:** Do not leave your indoor and outdoor lights and decorations on overnight.
- 7. Set the thermostat lower during holiday gatherings:** With extra warm bodies, you can set the thermostat lower and stay just as cozy.
- 8. Cook efficiently:** Bake several items at one time, and use the right size pan for your stovetop burner, which will reduce energy waste by as much as 40%.
- 9. There's no place like home for the holidays:** A round-trip flight from New York to Los Angeles produces 1,436 lbs of CO² according to Terra Pass (this is about 6% of typical household energy use). If you can stay home, you'll save energy.