



## 10 Tips for a Greener Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and one of the major markers of the holiday season. This is the perfect opportunity to create new green traditions and help the environment while also benefitting your health and wallet. Here are 10 great tips for a greener Thanksgiving Day and beyond.

- 1. Shopping:** Buy local to reduce carbon emissions on food travel and support the local economy, which can also create a fresher and tastier dinner. Whenever possible choose organic fruit, vegetables, grains and meats to create your feast. Try to purchase items that come in packaging that can be recycled. And don't forget your reusable bags when shopping.
- 2. DIY Decorations:** Instead of purchasing more decorations use natural items such as pine cones and leaves as your centerpiece. For the rest of the house, use colored paper to create simple turkey or harvest decorations that are recyclable after the big event. If there is a decorative item you've been eyeing, make sure it's a purchase you can reuse in the future.
- 3. Travel:** Try a Thanksgiving at home. This can reduce carbon emissions as well as stress. If you are driving, make sure your vehicle is in good working order and the tires are properly inflated. Also, try to carpool to your destination.
- 4. Setting the Table:** A small gathering is a great opportunity to use your nice china and cloth napkins. This will create a nice look and reduce the waste at the end of the meal. If disposables are the only option, look for biodegradable or compostable plates, utensils and napkins.
- 5. Energy Use:** Think through how many people will be attending your feast and plan your home temperature accordingly. With all the cooking going on in the kitchen it's going to get warm, especially if you have a lot of guests. Be sure to turn the temperature down on the thermostat.
- 6. Leftovers:** Plan ahead for what you will do with all of those leftovers. Consider meals beyond the turkey sandwich, such as turkey soup or turkey enchiladas. Have guests bring their own reusable containers for sharing the bounty.
- 7. Compost:** Use that big green bin! Compost your extras, including the peels and skins from prepping, as well as the leftover food scraps at the end of the meal.
- 8. Recycle:** Make sure to recycle packaging, beverage containers and any other miscellaneous items that made it into your home. Have your recycle and compost bins visible to encourage your guests and everyone who helps clean up.
- 9. Green Cleaning:** Before tossing dishes into the dishwasher, grab a fork and scrape excess food off those plates rather than running water to pre-rinse. Be sure to fill your dish washer to the rim before starting it. Use green cleaning products you already have in the house, including white vinegar or baking soda.
- 10. Plant a Tree:** Create a new tradition with your friends and family and plant a tree. Planting one tree may not seem to make much difference in the face of global climate change, but small things do matter. It's also an opportunity to get outside and be thankful for the beauty in the great outdoors.

**And don't forget to take a moment and give thanks.**