



## Tips for Greener Gifts

The holiday season is in full swing and so is the shopping season. This year the OMF Green Team has compiled some tips and ideas for greener and more sustainable gift giving.

**Some Facts:** Waste increases approximately 25 percent during the holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Years. That's an **additional 1 million tons of waste**, primarily from shopping bags, wrapping paper, and food packaging.

Here are some gift ideas to prevent waste and reuse materials you already have at home:

### Packaging

- Use reusable bags.
- Wrap your gift in recycled paper – newspaper, calendar pictures, kid's artwork, and brown paper bags all make great gift wrap.
- Wrap your gift in a scarf or other reusable cloth.
- Make a simple bow out of cloth, yarn, twine, grass, or other foliage.
- Reuse wrapping paper and ribbons from last holiday season.
- Reuse holiday cards for postcards, gift wrap decorations, or name tags.

### Gifts

- Think about the receiver and go for quality over quantity.
- Make your gift – knit a scarf, create a piece of art, bake some cookies, or make some jam.
- Give a gift of service – babysitting, housecleaning, or homemade dinner.
- Give a gift of education – a cooking class, photography class, dance class, or yoga class.
- Give an experience – a rafting trip, a massage, or museum tickets.
- Give quality time together – a special outing, sharing a hobby, meeting monthly for coffee.
- Donate to a charity, plant a tree, or provide a micro-finance loan in lieu of gifts.
- Buy local (it reduces transportation emissions).
- Buy high quality (it lasts longer).
- Support local artisan and crafters, such as those at Saturday Market.
- When in doubt, give cash or gift cards to help ensure your gift will be used.

### Other Ideas

- Provide the gift receipt (and avoid waste for items that won't be used).
- Re-gift.
- Set a gift limit.

The OMF Green Team wishes you a green and happy new year!