



Baltimore's Eco-Friendly Holiday Guide

The holidays are a fun and festive time of year. However, they also bring tons of extra garbage, millions of chopped-down trees, megawatts of extra power usage, and many expenses to you. Learn to have a lovely holiday season while being kind to the environment and your wallet.

Presented by the **Baltimore Office of Sustainability** and **TreeBaltimore**.

Resource Conservation

- ◇ Make your trash loads lighter, and recycle during the holidays (and all the time). Learn about Baltimore's [single stream recycling](#).
- ◇ Use old newspapers, maps, or other recycled materials for gift wrapping. Collect items like boxes and ribbon all year from various purchases to use for the holiday time.
- ◇ Use LED holiday lights.
- ◇ Look for holiday cards that are made with recycled paper or send e-cards.
- ◇ Give the gift that keeps on giving – a basket of energy efficiency products (CFL light bulbs, motion sensors that turn on lights only when someone is in the room, etc.) will help your friends and loved ones save energy and cash all year long.
- ◇ When buying gifts, keep an eye out for those with minimal packaging, or items packed in recycled or recyclable materials (i.e.: cardboard).
- ◇ Consider using your holiday meal scraps to start composting in your backyard for the first time! If you already compost, give a friend or loved one a compost bin as an early holiday gift to get them started too. Buy local at [Ace Hardware](#).
- ◇ Make your own presents, such as a hand-knitted scarf or preserves.
- ◇ Bring reusable shopping bags when you go shopping.
- ◇ Avoid disposable plates, cups, etc. and use reusable items when having holiday celebrations.
- ◇ Give a rain barrel from [Blue Water Baltimore](#) as a gift. A rain barrel reduces pollution in your yard and saves money on your water bill.
- ◇ If you have a holiday tree, plan to recycle it into mulch at the end of the season at one of the [City's](#) designated locations.



Pollution Prevention

- ◇ Combine gift-shopping trips that need to be made by car with friends! You'll save gas AND have more fun. [Public transportation](#) is a great option too.

Greening

- ◇ If you usually purchase a holiday tree, consider decorating a native potted shrub instead and then transplanting it to your yard in the spring.
- ◇ Give a friend or loved one a gift certificate to the [Herring Run Nursery](#).
- ◇ Visit [local farmer's markets](#) and put together a basket of local produce for a friend or loved one, or buy a friend or loved one a [CSA \(community-supported agriculture\)](#) membership for the spring.
- ◇ Have a tree planted in someone's honor by [Treemendous Maryland](#).

Education and Awareness

- ◇ Share this list with your friends!
- ◇ Get a friend or loved one a gift certificate to a class on native plant gardening, urban bee-keeping or another sustainability-related topic.
- ◇ As a gift, make a donation in a friend or loved one's name to the [Cleaner, Greener Baltimore Fund](#) at the Baltimore Community Foundation – this fund supports programs that provide sustainability education resources to city public schools. Or to [Blue Water Baltimore](#), which educates Baltimore about healthy water and watersheds.

Green Economy

- ◇ Use [BNotes](#), Baltimore's local currency, to save money by shopping local this season! Good at over 100 local businesses, BNotes come with a built-in 10% discount.
- ◇ Shop at local craft fairs, such as the [Creative Alliance's Merry Mart](#) or the [Charm City Craft Mafia's Holiday Heap](#).
- ◇ Check out [Buy Local Baltimore](#) and [Baltimore Main Streets](#) for more ideas of places you can shop local.
- ◇ Buy food from the local farmer's markets to purchase the freshest and best tasting food.
- ◇ [Shop for a Better Baltimore](#) by supporting local nonprofit organizations that are bettering the community in a variety of ways, by purchasing a gift from one of the fun options they offer.

Cleanliness

- ◇ As a gift, make a donation in a friend or loved one's name to the [Community Greening Resource Network \(CGRN\) at the Parks & People Foundation](#) – CGRN helps city residents clean up vacant lots and turn them into community gardens and pocket parks.

Transportation

- ◇ Consider chipping in with others to get a friend or loved one a new bicycle as a present! You can also get cheaper, used bikes from [Velocipede Bike Project](#) or [Craigslist](#).
- ◇ Buy a friend or loved one a [ZipCar](#) membership as a gift. "Wheels when you want them."

New Year's Resolutions for 2012

- ◇ Join [Tree Baltimore](#) with your family and friends to plant a free tree in your yard or volunteer for a community tree planting
- ◇ Learn to live more sustainably in the New Year with [Baltimore's Office of Sustainability](#).

