



Christmas is a time for Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus and so is a time of great joy and celebration. However, it is also one of the most wasteful times of the year. From excessive plastic packaging to energy-heavy decorations, the environmental footprint of Christmas can be significant. With a few thoughtful choices, we can celebrate just as festively while still being kind to the planet.



Here are some ideas to make your Christmas more sustainable this year:



Choose thoughtful, low impact gifts

Let’s remember the saying ‘it’s the thought that counts’ and instead of rushing around and buying last minute presents from places like Amazon who sell mass-produced goods that typically have a high carbon footprint, let’s buy from local makers and small businesses. Could you give the gift of an experience or even make some presents? Maybe you could join with friends and have an evening of decoration making?



Rethink your Christmas tree

If you prefer a real tree, look for one from a local grower that can be replanted once Christmas is over. Some places even offer tree rental services, allowing you to “borrow” a living tree in a pot and return it after the holidays for replanting.

If you already own an artificial tree, keep using it — its environmental impact decreases the longer it’s in service. And for those creative people, maybe you could make one from driftwood, books, or reclaimed branches. If you attempt to make your own, we’d love to see your photos.



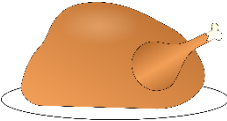
Decorate Consciously

Try decorating with natural items such as pinecones, dried orange slices, cinnamon sticks, and sprigs or branches of evergreen. They’re biodegradable and smell incredible. LED fairy lights are a great alternative too because they use up to 80% less energy than traditional bulbs and last longer. If you like candles, Eco-friendly candles are made with plant-based waxes like soy or from beeswax instead of petroleum-based paraffin. They often use sustainable packaging, and may be sourced from local and/or ethical suppliers to reduce their carbon footprint.



Wrap gifts the green way

Did you know that The UK alone throws away roughly 227,000 miles of wrapping paper each Christmas? That’s enough to circle the Earth nine times. Most of it can’t be recycled because of glitter, foil, or plastic coating. This year, why not try recyclable kraft paper or old fabric? Instead of glitter or foil ribbons, try natural products such as twine, pine cones or evergreen sprigs. Instead of sellotape, use brown paper tape. Re-use gift bags or bottle bags for wine – you just might be lucky and get them back next Christmas!



Eat sustainably

We all tend to over eat at Christmas so plan portions carefully to reduce food waste. Buy seasonal and local produce, and consider adding more plant-based dishes into your menu.

If there are leftovers, share them, freeze them, or compost what you can. Small steps make a big difference when multiplied across millions of homes.



“Choosing an eco-friendly Christmas doesn’t mean giving up the magic — it means rediscovering it. A slower, simpler holiday season allows space for what truly matters: connection, creativity, and care for the world we share”

The greatest gift we can give future generations is God’s creation that can keep on celebrating.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have.” — Hebrews 13:5	Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” — 2 Corinthians 9:7	The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” — Psalm 24:1
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