

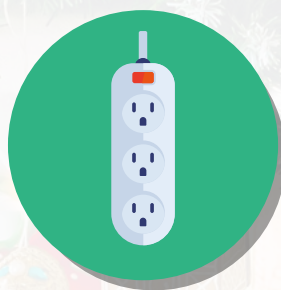
TIPS FOR BEING GREEN THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are a time for joy and celebration, but why not add a dash of green? This year, as you deck the halls and wrap up gifts, consider ways to keep your festivities eco-friendly. From sustainable decorations to mindful gift-giving, here are some simple yet impactful tips to help you celebrate the season while keeping the planet merry and bright!



Decorate Sustainably

Each year, millions of Christmas trees and natural wreaths are discarded and end up in landfills. Choose eco-friendly, reusable decorations, or if you prefer natural trees, consider recycling them through your city's green waste program. Gift wrap is also often single use, resulting in extra waste. Choose eco-friendly wrapping alternatives like newspaper, fabric, or reusable tin boxes and gift bags. Get creative and reduce waste!



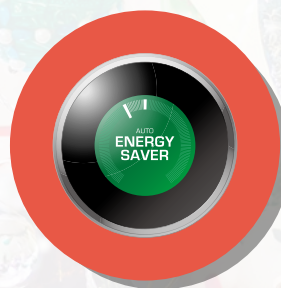
Opt for Energy Efficiency

During colder months, heating can account for a significant portion of energy use. Ensure your heating system is energy-efficient and well-maintained to reduce emissions and save on energy costs. Conserve energy and reduce your electric bill by turning off lights and appliances when not in use. Upgrade to energy-efficient bulbs and use timers or surge protectors for holiday lights.



Cool Down Your Laundry

Reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by washing two loads of laundry weekly in cold water instead of hot. Full loads also reduce water and energy usage, saving you time and money.



Mind Your Thermostat

Save energy by setting your thermostat to a lower temperature when you're away or sleeping. A programmable thermostat can help reduce energy use without sacrificing comfort.



Avoid Residential Wood Burning

Wood burning contributes to air pollution and can affect your health. Select cleaner alternatives like gas or electric fireplaces and firepits. Sign up for [Air Alerts](#) to receive notifications on No-Burn Days and help improve regional air quality.



Eco-friendly Gift Choices

Choose gifts that promote sustainability, such as reusable items, energy-efficient gadgets, or experiences, instead of physical products. This not only reduces waste but also encourages a greener lifestyle. Consider gifting indoor plants that improve air quality and add a natural touch to your loved ones' homes. Plants like spider plants, snake plants, and peace lilies are known for their indoor air-purifying properties.



Choose Sustainable Transportation

Reduce your carbon footprint by carpooling, using public transportation, or driving an electric vehicle for holiday shopping and gatherings. It's a small change that can make a big difference in air quality.