

Eco Tip for October - Christmas

Are you dreaming of a green Christmas? Too early?! Some of our Christmas preparations take time, and some folk do start 'early', so that's why our October Eco Tip is all about a sustainable approach to Christmas. A Rocha suggests we 'plan for a less wasteful Christmas. How can we celebrate God's creation rather than deplete its resources in a season of excess?' Below are a few tips on how to keep Christmas 'green':

Trees:

Buy a real, locally-grown tree, then have it chipped and mulched afterwards. Buy a potted tree, or rent a tree! A plastic tree would have to be used for more than 10 years to be 'greener' than a real tree. Use LED indoor and outdoor lights, remembering to switch them off at night!

Decorations:

Using what you already have is the most 'zero waste' you can be. Find ideas to create more [here](#).

Presents:

'Each Christmas, 4000 tonnes of products arrive from China. Try to give fewer, more meaningful presents'; buy locally and ethically made; try to gift an experience, a subscription; a skill (e.g. a year of bike maintenance); or your time (e.g. 1 month's ironing!); give a 'gift for others' (e.g. [World Vision Must Have Gifts](#)); make, sew or bake your gifts; or buy from charity shops. Try Secret Santa within families.

Wrapping:

Wrap with coloured, natural string around newspaper or kraft paper; use re-usable paper or cloth bags; try [furoshiki](#)! Recycle any paper used, noting that foil or shiny paper can't be recycled, or save for re-use.

Cards:

Consider sending to only those people you won't see; send e-cards; recycle last year's cards to make this year's; or make your own.

Food:

Consider moderate meat consumption; try to buy locally-sourced foods and don't overbuy. Get creative with the [leftovers](#)!