



Mostly Zero Waste Holiday



Ideas, Best Practices,
Considerations for a More
Sustainable Holiday Season

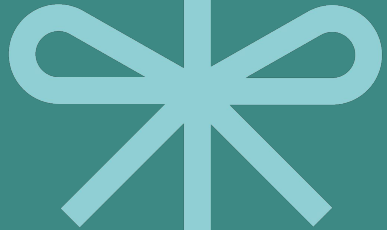
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Environmental Elf



What Does it Mean to Be Sustainable?

- To consider the beginning, middle and end of a product
- To consider how that product got into your hands in the first place
- To ask yourself: How have I served my community
- To ask yourself: How have I protected or enhanced my natural environment?





Wasteful Holidays are Wasteful

- The United States creates **5.8 million tons** (23%) more waste in December than in other months of the year. That's 28,713 Boeing 747 airplanes.
- **3 in 5 Americans** have lied about liking a gift they've received.
- 1/3 of people who accepted a gift they didn't like threw it in the trash.
 - Retailers dump about **25% of returned products** (5 billion lbs) in landfills.



Entertaining

- Farmers Markets and Farm Stores
 - Locally grown and sourced food has fewer miles to travel making it a more sustainable option
- **Regardless of where you do your food shopping: Bring Your Own Bags**
 - **100 Billion grocery bags used in the US every year**
- Compost your kitchen and table scraps
- Save containers to send leftovers or treats home with friends and family
- **You have dishes, silverware, cups and glasses. Use them, not single use plastic.**



Sustainable Gift Giving

Who

What

When

Where

How

End of
Life

A Reminder! (from 2021)

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

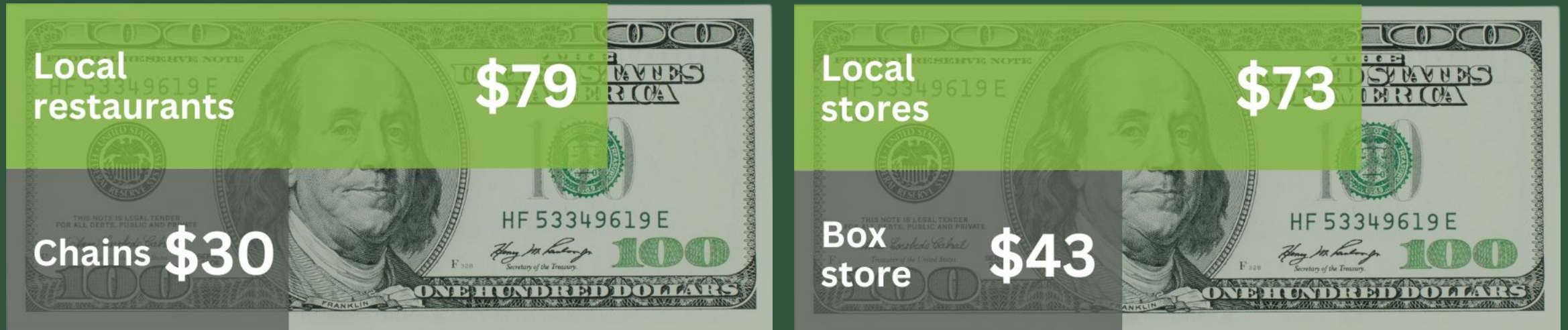
Things not stuck on a container ship

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- Local Art
 - Neighborhood Businesses
 - Thrift Store Finds
 - Hand/Homemade Goodies
 - Gift Certificates for Experiences
 - IOUs for Gardens/Household Help
 - Charitable Donations

Celebrate Resilience This Year

Shopping: Small and Local vs. Big & Online

For every \$100 spent, how much stays in the community?



- Online shopping removes almost 100% of that \$100
- Nonprofits receive 250% more support from small businesses than large ones

Give the people what they want

Gift lists are
your friend

Experiences vs
things

Thrift and
Antique stores!

Gift certificates
(you can make
your own)

The Gift of
Time

Handmade!

Ideas!

Classes, experiences, handmade, subscriptions





Decorating

The most sustainable decorations will always be the ones that you can use over and over, or the ones you can compost.

If you are just starting out, look for holiday decor and ornaments at thrift shops and yard sales.





The Great Debate: Live Tree vs Artificial Tree



A real Christmas tree is a more "eco-friendly" choice for the season because it is a renewable & biodegradable natural resource.

10 Years



1 Blue Spruce



Ways to Wrap Sustainably

- Use recycled and recyclable wrapping paper
 - Kraft paper roll
 - Newspaper
 - Packing paper
- Use fabric, and fabric strips
- Make the wrap part of the gift
 - Antique tea towel or a handkerchief
 - Reusable container
- Use twine that can be reused or composted (vs. plastic ribbons/bows)
- If you use tape, try to get it off before putting the wrap in the recycling bin

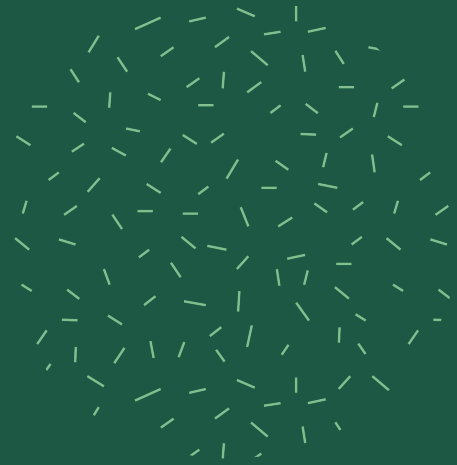


After The Holidays

- Because you didn't use anything disposable, just put everything away
- Organics (unpainted pumpkins, Christmas trees) can be composted

➡ Check your locality about tree pick up





New Years Resolutions

- Refuse
- Remember
- suppoRt
- Return and Rot
- Repair before Replace



Thank You!

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