

# Going “Green” This Christmas!

by larryjwilliams on November 30, 2009

## Going “Green” for the Holidays

Christmas is the perfect time to think “green.” That is, green as in “environmentally responsible.” Think about it — with all the seasonal gift-wrap paper, bows, lighting, decorations, cut trees, etc. — here’s your chance to start some new enviro-friendly habits and move into 2010 with a new attitude.

No need to add more stress to the season, however. There are some simple ways to enjoy a greener Christmas:

- Send online greeting cards or “green” cards that are made from recycled paper or that get second lives in the garden. Some cards are infused with seeds, which recipients can plant later. Go to <http://www.greenfieldpaper.com> to learn more about their eco-friendly greeting cards.
- When holiday shopping take reusable bags and say no to plastic ones.
- Consider packaging. For example, buy drinks in bigger bottles as they generate less waste.
- Reduce paper waste by putting presents in stockings or gift bags that can be reused.
- For toys and electrical gadgets, consider rechargeable batteries—for every 500 charges you’ll save 499 batteries being thrown away.
- Recycle cardboard from bulky present packaging. Recycle wrapping paper from Christmas morning as well as Christmas cards.
- Got new glad rags for Christmas? Why not donate old clothing you no longer wear to charity?
- Got new electronics or appliances as gifts? Consider donating the older ones or turning them in to electronic recycling centers, especially those that benefit charities.
- Make note of tree pick-up dates for your block. When it’s time to take your tree down, remember to cut it up, bag it and place on your curb, ready for green waste recycling.
- Take extra holiday waste or recycling to your nearest waste recycling center which will be happy to take it off your hands.

## “Green” Gadgets as Gifts

As you plan your gift-giving, consider giving small enviro-friendly gadgets to encourage friends and family to start thinking “green” too. Here are a few useful gadgets that may be good matches for the people on your shopping list and unique “green” gifts:



- **CFL Bulb by Neptun Light:** It looks like a regular bulb. This amazing 20 watt compact fluorescent electronic bulb produces the same amount of light as a 75 watt incandescent bulb, saving up to 80% on energy. Plus, patented glass cover frosted outside improves heat transfer, and gives the appearance of a traditional bulb. Color temperature of 2750°K, matching incandescent bulbs. Designed for use in open or enclosed fixtures, table lamps, pendant lamps, desk lamps, track lights, recessed cans, outdoor fixtures, driveways, walkways, yards & gardens and wardrobe closets. *Energy Star Rated; 8,000 Hour Life; 24 Month Warranty* *\$9.00 for non-dimmable bulb; \$14.00 for dimmable-version bulb at [www.currentenergy.com](http://www.currentenergy.com)*



- **PowerSquid:** It's a flexible, multi port power strip that is not confined to a power box. Six individual, flexible tentacles attached to the base allow for all outlets to be used with ease. The unit contains 3820 joules for maximum protection of all connected equipment. The unit warranties up to \$500,000 of connected equipment, including dial up, cable, and coax. It's nice to be able to use all the outlets. Comes in Black or white; \$70.00 at [www.currentenergy.com](http://www.currentenergy.com)
- **HYmini Deluxe Kit by MINIWIZ:** It's a new way of capturing renewable power for your iPod, mobile phone, PDA, mp3 player, digital camera or other 5v devices. The portable powerbank



harnesses renewable wind and solar power, or if needed, it can be powered up with conventional wall plug. The device stores up to 6 watts of power for use on the go or in an emergency, whenever charge power is needed. Made with soft, flexible PVC material, the internal turbine fan is flexible and functional to produce safe, clean power. Plug the miniSOLAR charger in and store additional renewable energy. Connecting to the Micro Wind Charger, the solar panel is used to get additional energy in a shorter amount of time. Kit includes *HYmini® Micro Wind & Powerbank, miniSOLAR charger, AC/DC Power Adaptor, USB Transfer Cable, 5 Device Connectors*; \$44.99 at [www.currentenergy.com](http://www.currentenergy.com)



- **Home Energy PowerCost Monitor:** With this portable, wireless monitor, at the push of a button, you can view your real-time, moment-to-moment and total electricity costs in dollars and cents and in kilowatt hours. You can also be able to see your peak energy cost within the last 24 hours. You don't need an electrician to install the PowerCost monitor. It has been designed to be easy to install: it attaches to your electricity meter and reads your power consumption. This is then sent over a wireless connection to the base unit in your home. Research shows most families using the PowerCost Monitor have experienced energy use reduction of up to 6-18%. Uses 4 AA batteries, which are included. \$109 at [www.terrapass.com](http://www.terrapass.com) or [www.bluelineinnovations.com](http://www.bluelineinnovations.com)

These are not your traditional holiday gifts so your family and friends may be a bit surprised when they open your “green” gift. But, when they use it, they’ll be appreciating your thoughtfulness — towards them and the environment — all year long!

**Happy “Green” Holidays to All!** 