

SOLS SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMITTEE PRESENTS

# SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



2023  
EDITION

# *Why Give Sustainably*

Are you tired of your holiday gift-giving contributing to your climate anxiety? Would you prefer to save the planet rather than contribute to its demise? Then this is the guide for you!

Nobody likes giving a gift that will just become clutter in a closet. While the world continues to push disposability, it's possible to trade that for sustainability.

We've compiled a gift-giving guide to help you make smart, sustainable shopping choices this holiday season.






Whether you're looking to give donations, experiences, or more traditional gifts, we guarantee you'll find something that your friends and family will love!



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# Gift Wrapping

- Reuse old, salvageable wrapping paper and gift bags
- Make sustainable gift tags with the packaging your gift to someone might have come in
- Use newspaper for wrapping paper (yay - comics section!)
- Use Amazon packaging for wrapping paper (e.g., brown paper or gift bags)
- If you live close to friends/family, try to drop off gifts instead of having them shipped to cut carbon costs!
- Minimize your waste when shopping in-person: bring a reusable shopping bag, bike or walk to shops when possible rather than driving, support local shops rather than large brands or online retailers



# *Practicality*

Think practical: ask yourself if the recipient will want this gift in 5 yrs and can actually use it, or if it will just sit on a shelf or in a cabinet (or if they even deserve a gift this year 😊)



# Donations

- Sierra Club: make a minimum \$15 donation in their name and give them the gift that comes with the donation (changes regularly!)
- Heifer international - pay for a family to be provided with a livestock animal that can help provide valuable resources
- Kiva: recipient can choose to make a loan to an self-made entrepreneur across the globe
- Adopt an animal to support conservation! (e.g., Phoenix Zoo, Sheldrick Wildlife Trust)
- Any cause that the recipient champions (e.g., Planned Parenthood, ASPCA)



# Experiences

*Too often we think of gifts as things,  
but often an experience is an even  
better way of giving!*

- Gift cards to support local businesses (esp. sustainable businesses or restaurants such as Green New American Vegetarian)
- Tickets to a local event for a shared experience together! (e.g., Gammage auditorium)
- Membership to a local organization (e.g., National Parks pass, institutions like the Botanical Garden, local wine club)



# Tangible Gifts

*If you want to give something tangible, then consider where you buy it, what it's made of and its practicality.*

- Gifts from nonprofit organizations (with great gifts shops and that support conservation)
  - [Sierra Club](#)
  - [Keep Nature Wild](#)
- Gifts that need a second home (e.g., clothes, books, games)
  - Thrift stores (e.g., Goodwill, White Dove, Buffalo Exchange)
  - [Infynite Threads](#) ← local (AZ), online consignment store
  - [ThredUp](#) ← online clothing consignment store
  - [Poshmark](#) ← great resource for high end designer clothes/items
  - [Old Town Books](#)
  - [Bookmans](#)





# Gifts from the Heart

*Making your own gifts can save you money and be more fulfilling!*

- **DIY baked goods or food items** (e.g., mason jar cookie recipe)
- **DIY wax food wraps**
- **DIY scrubbies, pot holders, or hand towels** (if you're not a skilled knitter, a loom makes it easy!)
- **DIY produce and shopping bags** (reuse old linens or t-shirts, or buy second hand - sometimes thrift stores even have yards of leftover fabric for sale)
- **DIY crafts** (e.g., any craft you can create with what you already have at home!)



# Gifts to Promote Sustainable Living

*Give gifts that will help your friends and family live more sustainably*

- Reusable sandwich, produce, or grocery bags
- Wool dryer balls (pair with essential oils for a cute gift set)
- Reusable travel mugs/water bottles
- Reusable silverware kits
- Sustainable household items, includes annual subscriptions (e.g., Ethique, Earth Love, Grove, Who Gives A Crap, NetZero Company)
- Cookbooks, herb gardens, CSA subscription or other food related gifts



# Gifts for our Furry Friends

*Show your pets some love this holiday season with cute, sustainable gifts!*

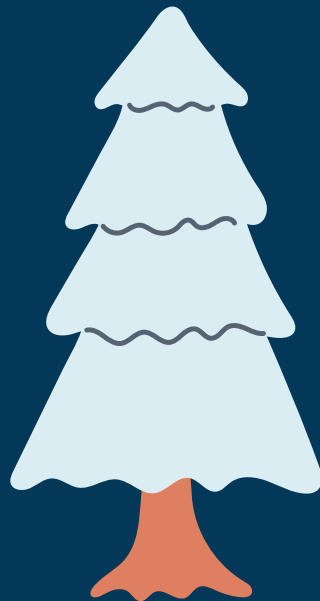
- Check out companies like Keep Nature Wild, The Kind Pet, or West Paw for sustainably made supplies and accessories
- Consider making your own homemade dog/cat treats or homemade animal bandanas



# Gifts that keep on giving

*Consider gifts that will last many years (and provide delicious food!)*

- **Plants (herbs, produce plants, trees)**
- **Seed packets for herbs, produce plants, or wildflower mixes (can support local wildlife such as bees and butterflies)**
- **Cookbooks that support sustainable eating**
- **Community supported agriculture (CSA) subscriptions**



# *Support small and/or sustainable businesses*

- [Etsy](#) (with businesses like [Peppermint Narwhal](#))
- [Conscious Step](#) for cute socks!
- [Eco-focused Shopping Guide](#) - you can sort by gift-category or “value” (e.g., vegan, sustainable, woman/POC-owned, empowers workers etc.)
- [Changing Hands](#) and [Palabras](#) for books (new and used)
- [Patagonia](#) for outdoor clothes and gear (all profits go to climate action)



# Sustainable Holiday Cards

- Crafting new cards from old holiday cards (or from scratch paper)
- Buying cards made of seed paper that you can plant in the ground afterwards (e.g., Botanical Paperworks, Cute Root)
- Buying cards from small and/or sustainable businesses
- Incorporate your message as part of the gift (e.g., write in the book cover or on the wrapping paper)



# Happy Holidays!

All of these ideas are just **SOME** of the many amazing ways to make gift-giving more sustainable and planet-friendly!

**We Wish Everyone a Wonderful and Safe Holiday!**



THE SOLS GRADUATE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETS REGULARLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. ~ OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE THE ASU COMMUNITY WITH INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AND PRACTICES.

PLEASE EMAIL MADELINE BUHMAN (MBUHMAN@ASU.EDU) WITH QUESTIONS OR INTEREST IN JOINING OUR ORGANIZATION!