

A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE (SUSTAINABLE) THINGS:
The Conservation Committee developed a short list of their favorite sustainable products to share with the GCW. This is not a complete list as there are so many great sustainable products and companies out there, but just a few suggestions! All wording is from the product website, unless otherwise noted.

CLEANING & KITCHEN PRODUCTS

Big Daddy Scrubber

It's a scrubber. " skip the chemicals, skip the scratches, skip the smells. Flex texture, You control the texture. Soft in warm water for gentle cleansing. Firm in cool water for course scrubbing " I've used one 3"x3" for over a year in the kitchen and it's as good as new. Sheds food particles and other debris. Comes in a 3"x5" "brick". You can cut it in any size and shape you might need. It has had tremendous use and replaces many other scrubbers - Mimi Griffenberg <https://scrubdaddy.com/big-daddy/>



Dropps Laundry and Dishwasher Cleaning Pods

Effective plant-based cleaning solutions shipped direct to your door. Subscribe and save or buy on the fly. It's up to you! <https://www.dropps.com/>



Force of Nature Cleaning Solution

Force of Nature is an appliance that turns tap water, plus a capsule of salt, water, and vinegar into a cleaner, deodorizer and disinfectant as effective as bleach. <https://www.forceofnatureclean.com/natural-cleaner-and-disinfectant/>



Shaklee Cleaning Products

Let's get every nook and cranny spick-and-span. And let's do it right—with products that are safe around your little ones, powerful against even the most stubborn dirt, green for the planet, and smart on your wallet. You would spend \$3,400 for ready-to-use cleaners to get the same amount of clean found in the Get Clean Starter Kit!*

<https://us.shaklee.com/Green-Home/c/500>



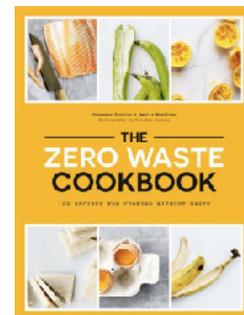
Tru-Earth Laundry Strips

Each laundry strip packs ultra-concentrated, hypoallergenic, eco-friendly cleaning power into a tiny, pre-measured strip of detergent that you just toss in the wash. The smart formulation effectively seeks out and dislodges dirt molecules and stains, keeping them in suspension until they are rinsed away. It makes your laundry washing chore easier, healthier, more economical, and much kinder to our planet. <https://www.tru.earth/>



Zero Waste Cookbook

100 recipes for cooking without waste. <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/reviews/zero-waste-cookbook-giovanna-torricco/1129475842?ean=9781784882471>



ZWraps

Reusable, washable food wraps, where pretty meets practical, for your lunchbox, leftovers, hostess gifts, and more. myzwraps.com



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

4Ocean Bracelet

Every product purchased funds the removal of one pound of trash from the ocean and coastlines. 4ocean.com



Arielle

ARIELLE is a sustainable apparel label committed to organic, recycled and zero-waste fabrics, local manufacturing, fair-trade operations and plastic-free packaging & production. We invite you to join us in raising global awareness and responsibility in the wardrobe, and beyond! shop-arielle.com



Bent and Bree Cork Handbags

HOLD NATURE: the finest Cork bags and accessories. BentandBree.com



Cotopaxi Packs and Bags

All products in our (Re)Purpose™ Collection use fabric left over from other companies' larger production runs. That's what makes our Del Día bags one of a kind, and our Teca Windbreakers limited-edition: We take high-quality, remnant fabric originally produced for another purpose to create these products. Every (Re)Purpose™ product keeps fabric out of the landfill and puts it in the hands of thoughtful adventurers like you. cotopaxi.com



HiLoveTravel

Bags and baggage that are fashionable as well as splash resistant and recyclable. <https://hilovetravel.com/>



Kam Productions

Celebrating the uniqueness of Delaware's only area code and its state marine animal. kamproductions.com



Lavishy

Stylish and fun vegan bags and purses. lavishy.ca



Rothys Footwear

At Rothy's, we create beautiful, comfortable, washable shoes—sustainably. To date, we've transformed over 30 million plastic water bottles into stylish flats. And that's just the beginning. rothys.com



OTHER PRODUCTS

Mamacakes Soap Company

All soaps are handmade by Christina Maxwell in Middletown, DE. All are palm free, vegan, and gluten free. Made in small batches 4-6lbs. I use micas for coloring or natural clays. Young Living essential oils *except for vanilla soaps. <https://www.etsy.com/shop/MamaCakesSoapCompany>



Reducing Holiday Waste

The GCA has provided a links to external websites with creative ideas on:

- [Food Waste Reduction](#)
- [Zero Waste Gift Wrapping](#)
- [Eco Friendly Gift Wrapping](#)
- [Low Waste Gift Ideas](#)
- [Recycle Post Holiday Waste](#)

NEW YORK TIMES

“ONE THING YOU CAN DO: SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAY SHOPPING”

By Kyla Mandel

Black Friday kicks off the holiday shopping season this week and, according to [a recent survey](#), sustainable shopping is on a lot of people’s minds this year.

For example, half of respondents in the survey, which was conducted by the consulting firm Accenture, said they would opt for lower-carbon delivery options — like slower shipping or in-store pickup — if possible when doing their holiday shopping.

Fortunately, there’s an easy way to give yourself those greener options: Start early.

If you get going sooner rather than later, you'll avoid the need for expedited shipping, which often means more trips, and less-efficient ones, by delivery trucks. And, it'll be easier to consolidate your items into fewer deliveries. Best of all, you'll probably give more thoughtful gifts. A bit more time for research means fewer panic purchases that are likely to be returned.

“Buy less and buy well,” recommended Shilpi Chhotray, a spokeswoman for [The Story of Stuff Project](#), a nonprofit group. “The gifts we can give can be thoughtful and helpful instead of impractical and contributing to more clutter.”

If you shop at brick-and-mortar stores, try to avoid single-purpose car trips. Rather, combine your holiday buying with other errands or do it on your way home from work. That, said Miguel Jaller, who studies sustainable transportation systems at the University of California, Davis, means “the marginal distance for doing that shopping is really, really small.”

But it's not just how you get the gift that matters. It's also about the gift itself. So, consider used items.

That might not be for everyone. But, roughly half of people surveyed by Accenture said they'd be glad to give and receive secondhand things. And, we're not talking about shabby castoffs. Think about distinctive collectibles, beautiful old books, vintage jewelry and antique household items.

“It's not only great for the environment, but it's also an easier way to get a high-end brand,” said Jill Standish, senior managing director at Accenture.

When it comes to beauty products, which generally come with a lot of petroleum-based plastics, there are brands out there that help you [recycle or reuse plastic containers](#) and others that aim for [zero-waste or sustainable packaging](#). You can even get [vegan beauty products](#).

If you want to make a climate-friendly donation in someone's name instead of making a purchase, [you have a lot of options](#). Those include groups that focus on food waste, forest protection and restoration, girls' education and pollution.

Gift cards can also help your friends and family avoid unwanted stuff. Or, you could make a gift of your time. For example, giving someone a day off from chores or making them a special meal.

Finally, don't forget the wrapping paper. According to one estimate, [25 percent more trash](#) than usual is thrown out between Thanksgiving and New Year's. A recent study also found that Americans spent [\\$12.7 billion on gift wrapping](#) in 2017. A whole lot of that paper ends up in landfills because most of it can't be recycled.

One way to bring that down is gift bags, with a note asking that people reuse them.

You could also use paper from around your home. The idea is to be creative and think colorful. That could mean using newspaper comics or old road maps. Or, you could put children to work decorating paper bags for gift wrap.

“There is nothing more aligned with the spirit of the season,” said Kate Kiely, a spokeswoman for the Natural Resources Defense Council, “than thinking about the impact our choices have on the world our children and grandchildren will inherit.”