**\*Green Christmas Ideas**

1. **Reduce Food Waste**

* Create a holiday menu then make a shopping list for items that you don’t already have and stick to it
* Eat Root to Stem e.g. slice the stem of broccoli stalks thinly and roast in the oven until they become crispy, roast squash seeds
* Use leftovers: use the turkey carcass as a base for a soup stock, make breadcrumbs from old bread, use whatever is left in your fridge to make a new dish
* Use past-its-prime produce: Use soft veggies to make soups or sauces, puree soft fruit to make holiday jams

1. **Keep decorations simple, natural, handmade and second hand.** Think about using natural and organic material such as real, fresh branches and twine. Decorations such as ornaments, lights or tealight holders are easy to find second hand. You could make your own decorations.
2. **Plan ahead when buying Christmas gifts, make a list and check it twice.**
3. **Experience, Zero waste and DIY gifts.** Think about buying experience gifts such as dinner vouchers or concert tickets, practical zero waste essentials such as reusable mugs or DIY goodies such as lip balms, candles or homemade granola
4. **Buy gifts in local arts and craft markets.** There are many unique and quirky upcycled gift ideas made from old metals, wood, pottery or fabrics.
5. **Wrap thoughtfully**. Ask the question “does my gift need wrapping?” Reuse wrapping paper, gift bags or cotton bags.  Upcycle newspaper, paper bags or any waste paper you can find and secure the packages with biodegradable twine or cotton string instead of sticky tape. Nothing beats a classic brown paper wrapping.
6. **Shop local, bulk and package free**. Why not buy your Christmas roast vegetables from your local farmers market or bulk food stores.
7. **Swap clothes with friends or buy clothes from local second-hand store**.

**Friends of the Earth Christmas Plastic Free 12 Festive tips** [**https://friendsoftheearth.uk/plastics/christmas-plastic-free**](https://friendsoftheearth.uk/plastics/christmas-plastic-free)

**Friends of the Earth 21 ecofriendly Christmas tips** [**https://friendsoftheearth.uk/natural-resources/21-ecofriendly-christmas-tips**](https://friendsoftheearth.uk/natural-resources/21-ecofriendly-christmas-tips)