

Greener Giving: Sustainable Ways to Celebrate the Winter Holidays | Swaner EcoCenter

12/08/2025

The winter season brings with it a sense of warmth, generosity, and celebration. Whether you're observing Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, the Winter Solstice, or simply gathering with loved ones to mark the year's end, gift-giving often plays a central role. Unfortunately, this joyful tradition also often comes with a hefty environmental price tag. From overpackaged items shipped across the world to mountains of discarded wrapping paper, gifts can have a hidden impact. Each year, holiday consumption spikes dramatically. Waste generation increases by as much as 25% between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Don't worry - with a little creativity and mindfulness, you can enjoy the holiday gifting while keeping your celebrations green, guilt-free, and full of cheer.

As you make your list and check it twice, consider these tips to stay on the nice list this year:

Shop Local and Support Artisans

- One of the most effective ways to give sustainably is to shop locally. Buying from nearby artists, makers, and small businesses not only reduces the carbon footprint associated with shipping but also strengthens your local economy and community. Handcrafted gifts often carry a story and personal touch that mass-produced items can't match. This season, consider visiting the **Wild Winter Art Market at Swaner EcoCenter on Friday, December 19th, from 5-8 pm**. This festive showcase of local talent offers unique jewelry, ceramics, textiles, and eco-friendly creations that highlight the beauty of the natural world, foster a deeper connection to nature, and inspire action to care for our environment. It's the perfect place to find gifts that are both thoughtful and planet-conscious!

Give Experiences Instead of Things

- Memories outlast most material gifts. Give an experience: tickets to a local concert, a cooking class, or a membership to a museum or nature center. These gifts enrich lives without creating waste.

Wrap with Care

- Each year, millions of tons of wrapping paper end up in landfills. Opt for reusable or recyclable options instead! Brown craft paper decorated with twine and natural accents like pine sprigs or cinnamon sticks can add rustic charm or wrap gifts in fabric scarves, tea towels, or newspaper comics for a creative twist.

Choose Quality Over Quantity

- Instead of filling stockings with novelty items that break or get tossed quickly, invest in fewer, higher-quality gifts that will last for years. Handmade, durable, or repairable goods reduce waste and reflect a thoughtful approach to giving.

Sustainable gifting doesn't mean sacrificing festivity—it means embracing the spirit of the holidays in a way that honors both loved ones and the Earth. This winter, celebrate all your holidays with gifts that give back to your community, reduce waste, and keep the world just a little bit brighter for the year ahead!



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Location, Hours & Contact

Physical & Mailing Address

[1258 Center Drive](#)
[Park City, Utah 84098](#)

EcoCenter Hours

Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

*The EcoCenter will be closed on Wednesday, October 7 and Thursday,
October 8.*

Email

swanerecocenter@usu.edu

Phone

[435-649-1767](tel:435-649-1767)

[Directions, Parking, & Transit View Staff Directory](#)

- [Swaner EcoCenter Facebook page](#)
- [Swaner EcoCenter Instagram page](#)

Events

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