Less stuff...more joy

Decorating
Power down the decor...
Use non-electric decorations or try LED holiday lights for sparkle. Put holiday lights on a timer set to turn off at bedtime.

LED lights last for 50,000 hours (10 times longer than incandescents) all while consuming 80% less energy. LEDs don’t break or burn out like incandescent bulbs. They now come in a variety of bright holiday colors.

Recycle old holiday lights during electronic recycling events in your area. Events can be found at: www.earth911.org

Choose a live Christmas tree...
Artificial trees are made from metal, petroleum and plastic products that will never decompose. Live trees are a natural and renewable resource often grown and sold locally. Most are recycled into mulch or compost.

Food
Buy locally grown and organic foods...
Both are eco-friendly and nutritious. Find local organic farms at: www.pasafarming.org www.localharvest.org

Compost...
Kitchen scraps and unwanted leftovers can be composted into a nutrient rich soil conditioner.

Make taste, not waste...
Use reusable flatware instead of landfill bound disposables like paper plates and plastic forks.

Cleanup
Clean green...
Cleanup after the party with eco-friendly products like Clorox Green Works®, Seventh Generation™, Method® and Mrs. Meyers® brands.

Gift Giving
For someone who has everything...
Make a charitable donation in the recipient’s name with a letter or card explaining the gift.

Experience Gifts (instead of stuff)...
Give concert tickets, fitness club memberships, or a certificate for coffee together.

Re-gifting and gently used items...
Give unneeded items to someone.

Buy green...
Buy Energy Star products. Buy locally made gifts. Choose gifts with no or minimal packaging.

Give battery-free gifts...
Even rechargeable batteries eventually enter the waste stream creating an environmental hazard.

Wrapping paper alternatives...
Choose paper with recycled content and avoid glossy foil or metallic wrap. Use fabric gift bags that can be reused.

Donate to Trash to Treasure...
At University Park residence halls, place donations of electronics, clothing, carpet, etc. in Commons areas between Dec. 5-17. www.trashtotreasure.psu.edu

Travel Tips
Share a ride or take public transportation.

Avoid peak travel times.

Check your tire pressure - Improper inflation decreases gas mileage.

While You’re Away
Lights out...
Turn off all unnecessary lights, appliances, and electronics before leaving for the day, weekend or longer breaks.

Unplug...
Chargers for cordless electronics and electrical transformers draw power even when not connected to a device.

Turn down the heat...

Close blinds and curtains...
Keep the heat in and the cold out.

Turn off the frig...
Clean and turn off this energy consumer when not in use over extended breaks.

To ensure building safety and security, check with your facility coordinator, IT manager, RA, etc. for specific direction regarding building shutdowns.

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