Don’t Give “Stuff”
Instead of buying new products, give meaningful gifts like experiences to concerts, restaurants, or spas. Or gift something edible like a homemade dessert or a healthy snack packaged in reusable mason jars. Consider donating to a charity important to your loved one by making a gift in their name.

Zero Waste Gift Wrapping
While Eco-Cycle will accept wrapping paper for a limited time, we encourage you to avoid it as its high clay and low paper content makes it difficult to recycle. Instead, choose reused/reusable options like posters, maps, or calendars (all recyclable), fabric, and reusable gift bags. If you do end up purchasing wrapping paper, avoid metallic or glitter wrapping paper, as it cannot be recycled.

Sustainable Holiday Gift Tags & Cards
Cards embossed with foil, glitter, ribbons, and other materials are not recyclable, nor are cards printed on photo paper. Instead, consider sending e-cards. If you do purchase holiday cards, make sure they can be recycled by choosing cards that do not have any non-paper embellishments like foil or ribbon. Even better: Look for cards that contain post-consumer recycled content, or try finding plantable cards! If you have holiday cards lying around that cannot be recycled, you can repurpose them as gift tags or place settings.

Stop Junk Mail
The holidays can bring an overflow of catalogs and other mail asking you to buy, buy, buy. But you can stop it! As soon as you receive an unwanted publication, call the 1-800 number and ask to be removed from their list. Learn more tricks, including 6 steps to getting and staying off mailing lists, at ecocycle.org/junkmail.

Re-charge It!
Every year, more than 15 billion batteries are produced worldwide. Many are alkaline batteries that are thrown out after just one use. Replace your alkaline batteries with rechargeable ones. Newer models can charge in as little as 15 minutes!

Make Gatherings Zero Waste
Instead of disposable tableware, serve food on real, reusable dishware. Borrow dish sets and glassware from friends, or go thrift store shopping for a special holiday set. Decorate the table with gourds and squash, bowls full of apples, or other seasonal fruits and veggies.

Give the Gift of Zero Waste!
Give your loved ones reusable, waste-cutting essentials to help them go Zero Waste, such as stainless steel water bottles, mugs, utensil kits, or reusable food containers. You can find these items at many local stores, or shop online at Earth Hero, Buy Me Once, and The Good Trade, to find sustainably-sourced gifts!

Prevent Food Waste
Prevent food waste during the holidays with careful planning. Save the Food’s “Guest-imator” tool (www.savethefood.com/guestimator) can help you plan out meals for large gatherings. Stick to your grocery list and assess how much of each ingredient you actually need. If there are leftovers, encourage guests to take them home in reusable containers and freeze the rest for an easy meal on another day.

Check out our complete Holiday Guide online at ecocycle.org/holidayguide