Don’t Give “Stuff”
Instead of buying new products, give meaningful gifts like experiences to museums, parks, or concerts. Or gift something edible like a dessert or a healthy snack packaged in reusable mason jars. Also consider products that will help others be less wasteful, such as stainless steel water bottles, mugs, or reusable lunch/to-go containers.

Zero Waste Gift Wrapping
While Eco-Cycle will accept gift wrapping paper for a limited time, its high clay and low paper content makes it difficult to recycle. Instead, choose reused/reusable options like comics, posters, maps, or calendars (all recyclable), fabric, and reusable cloth gift bags, etc. For shipping, replace foam or bubble wrap with balled-up paper.

Sustainable Holiday Gift Tags & Cards
Have holiday cards lying around? Save them to repurpose them as gift tags or place settings. Consider sending out e-cards this holiday season instead of cards printed on photo paper, which cannot be recycled! Cards embossed with foil, glitter, ribbons, photos, photo paper, and other non-paper materials cannot be recycled.

Stop Junk Mail
The holidays can bring 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.

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. Prevent food waste: Ask friends to bring containers for leftovers.

Use LED Holiday Lights
Traditional incandescent holiday lights are huge energy-suckers, so much so we recommend recycling your old lights and investing in LEDs. They may cost a little more up front, but holiday LED lights consume 80% less energy and last up to 25 times longer.

Re-charge It!
Every year over 15 billion batteries are produced worldwide, and 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!

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