

GreenAZ

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Green Up Your Holidays: Eco-Friendly Gift Ideas and Supplies

As I sit here brainstorming about how to "Green Up Your Holidays," I can't help but think of how **not** eco-friendly the season can be: racing from mall to mall for the perfect gift, creating extravagant home light displays, and of course, the wrapping paper! A.K.A. Green (www.akagreen.com), a green home store in Scottsdale, has come up with some suggestions to help inspire environmental responsibility this holiday season.

- Try LED Holiday Lights for indoors and out. They're energy-efficient, longer lasting, and sure beat the tangled mess of ancient strings of lights we have crammed in storage!
- Grow-A-Note holiday cards are 100% recycled, printed with soy ink, and wow, have wildflower seeds embedded in them so you can actually *plant* these cards!
- Xeko card games for kids teach children about the environment, endangered species, and exotic locales. They also have stuffed animal characters made from soysilk.
- Do something different. Give loved ones an adopted plot of rainforest (about \$50 per acre, www.nature.org), or a picture frame made from recycled bike chains (www.greenfeet.com). Just keep the earth in mind!



Happy Holidays from The Walsh Team!

Need Ideas for New Year's Resolutions?

- **Paper, not plastic!** Plastic shopping bags are not recyclable in Tempe. Plus, grocers like Sunflower Market will pay you to reuse paper bags. Or better yet, pick up a cloth shopping bag.
- **Go LED:** Pick up some LED lightbulbs at your next hardware shop stop. They are pretty inexpensive, long-lasting, and energy efficient.
- **Take cold showers...** maybe when summer rolls around.
- **Grocery shopping? Buy local and in season.** Flying exotic produce around the planet uses a lot of fossil fuels, so keep it national, or keep it very local.
- **Bus, bike, walk, carpool, or light-rail around town!** Visit www.valleymetro.org for fare info, carpool matching services, schedules, and more!

Green Makeover for

www.tempe-listings.com

Need a back issue of GreenAZ? Looking for articles and information on Green Building and Real Estate? Want the scoop on local eco-friendly vendors and services without the leg work? Visit my Green Living section at www.tempe-listings.com for all this and more!

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