

Simplify the Holidays



KŌKUA HAWAI'I FOUNDATION'S

12 DAYS TO A GREEN HOLIDAY

Fun tips to make your holidays more meaningful!

The holidays are a time of celebration with family, friends, and the community. Every family celebrates the season in different ways and for different reasons, but there is a universal act in which most participate: **Giving**. This once-simple holiday tradition has led to consumption practices that can have serious impacts on our environment—and the family budget! Please use this guide for ideas to simplify your season and start a new tradition today!

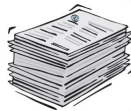
DAY 1 - ONE LOVELY CHRISTMAS TREE

When buying a Christmas tree, consider live potted trees that you can keep. If you do get a cut tree, try to find one that's locally grown instead of imported. Remember to recycle it with your green waste after Christmas.



DAY 2 - TWO UNWANTED CATALOGS

Reduce waste by calling the toll-free numbers on unwanted holiday catalogs and having your name taken off of their mailing lists. You can also visit www.CatalogChoice.org or www.GreenDimes.com.



DAY 3 - THREE HOLIDAY PARTIES

Reduce party waste by choosing reusables instead of single-use plates and utensils when hosting your holiday party. After your holiday party, recycle your bottles and cans.



DAY 4 - FOUR HAPPY TEACHERS

Give teachers, coworkers, and friends edible gifts, plants, or gift certificates instead of "stuff" that will get stuck in a drawer somewhere.



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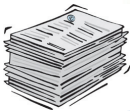
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DAY 5 - FIVE CHILDREN SINGING

Start eco-friendly traditions. For example, when you go out caroling in your neighborhood, take an empty trash bag and pick up any litter you see along the way.



DAY 6 - SIX WELL-WRAPPED PACKAGES

Reuse wrapping paper and bows or try repurposing newspapers, brown paper bags, maps, or art work to make your own unique, eco-friendly packages. Reusable grocery bags are also a good gift-wrapping option, and then it's a gift inside a gift.



DAY 7 - SEVEN STRANDS OF LED LIGHTS

Use energy efficient LED lights to light up your home or tree.



DAY 8 - EIGHT HOMEMADE HOLIDAY CARDS

Cut out pictures and messages from last year's cards, and then put them together to create brand new cards for this year.



DAY 9 - NINE SECRET SANTAS

Instead of exchanging gifts with all of your friends and family, consider drawing names and participating in a "Secret Santa" gift swap.



DAY 10 - TEN WASTE-FREE GIFTS

Give reusable or homemade gifts. Shop for gently used gifts at thrift shops or on-line at www.Craigslist.org or www.Freecycle.org. Give gifts of time like certificates for a massage or a car wash. Treat a loved one to 'ukulele lessons or tickets to a sporting or cultural event.



DAY 11 - ELEVEN (FEWER) TRIPS TO THE STORE

When shopping for holiday food and gifts, try to plan ahead and consolidate trips in order to save fuel and reduce pollution. Also, don't forget to take along your reusable cloth grocery bags to use instead of the disposable ones!



DAY 12 - TWELVE ACTS OF KINDNESS

During the holiday season the most rewarding gift of all is giving back to your community. Make it a family tradition to donate to or volunteer for charitable causes during the holidays.



www.kokuahawaiifoundation.org/holidays



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Hale'iwa, HI 96712
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