

## **Green Team's Twelve Days of Christmas...**

### **On the First Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this "green" tip to me:**

This holiday season give a gift that will protect the planet. Support a sustainable environment by reducing packaging, buy durable, less toxic and earth friendly products. Here are some ideas:

- 📦 Buy products made from recycled materials.
- 📦 Give a gift card if you are not sure what gift to give. Tickets to movies, sporting events and concerts are also a special treat. Also, consider a donation to a charitable organization as a gift.
- 📦 Make a gift – everyone loves baked goodies or gift baskets with organic foods and produce. How about a gift basket made with non-toxic cleaning products?
- 📦 Give a gift that is always useful – Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs), reusable shopping bags, compost bin, filtered water pitcher, reusable steel, aluminum, or BPA free plastic water bottles or rechargeable batteries and a charger as gifts.

**Happy Holidays From the Public Works Department, Environmental Services Section & the City of Monrovia's Green Team**

### **On the Second Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this "green" tip to me:**

While you celebrate with family and friends this holiday season, remember to conserve water resources. Try to use as little water as possible while you prepare to celebrate the holidays. Here are some tips:

- 📦 Defrost frozen items in the refrigerator, not under running water.
- 📦 Wash vegetables and fruits in a bowl, using a vegetable brush, rather than letting the water run over them.
- 📦 Substitute chicken broth for water in your mashed potatoes, rice and stuffing recipes. It'll taste even better!
- 📦 Do not run the kitchen faucet continuously while washing dishes. Use one sink for washing and the other for rinsing.
- 📦 Soak your pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- 📦 Run only full loads in automatic dishwashers.
- 📦 If out-of-town guests need to do laundry, mix your clothes with theirs so you have a full load of laundry.
- 📦 For your outside landscaping, avoid planting new ornamental plants. Although they look beautiful, they require a large amount of water to maintain. Instead, visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) for California native plant species that are drought-resistant and can be given as holiday gifts.
- 📦 Use mulch to retain moisture in your soil. Mulch also helps control weeds that compete with your plants for water.

**Happy Holidays From the Public Works Department, Utilities Section & the City of Monrovia's Green Team**

### **On the Third Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this "green" tips to me:**

Small changes at home can help to save money and give the environment a "gift" this holiday season.

- 📦 Clean your furnace filter monthly to help your furnace run more efficiently.
- 📦 Set your hot water heater to 120 degrees to cut water heating costs 10%.
- 📦 Install glass doors that fit your fireplace in order to reduce the amount of interior air drafted up the chimney. This will improve efficiency up to 20 percent.

- ❏ When using your fireplace, close off the room from rest of the house and crack open a window in the room. This will give the fireplace combustion air, without cooling off the rest of the house.
- ❏ When retiring for the evening, reduce costs by unplugging all lights at the wall outlet.
- ❏ Replace your larger bulb lights with mini-lights. They use up to 50% less energy than larger lights and last 65% longer.
- ❏ For those that don't want to change high user energy light bulbs, you can purchase a dimmer to control the light density. This also saves energy.
- ❏ Run your outdoor lights on a timer pre-set for three to five hours to save energy.
- ❏ Icicle lights have more lights per linear foot than regular light strands and use more energy. Instead, use mirrors or tinsel around indoor lights to heighten their effect.
- ❏ Turn lights off when no one is around to enjoy them.
- ❏ Consider floodlights for outdoor lighting - available for standard incandescent and halogen bulbs. (Halogens give more intense light and use less energy.) Buy different colors for a festive look!
- ❏ Set the heating thermostat to the lowest comfortable temperature - between 66°F and 68°F is recommended. For every 1°F you set your thermostat lower, you can save 1-3% on your heating costs.
- ❏ Water conservation – for those that wait for the shower hot water to get hot before you jump in, use a two gallon bucket, put it under the spout and collect that water and use it to water your indoor plants, rinse your dishes and other uses.
- ❏ For those making “green” improvements to their homes, consider a gift card from a local hardware store or retailer.
- ❏ For green-thumb endowed friends and relatives, consider an air-filtering, low-maintenance plant (like an African violet) or an indoor herb garden.

***Happy Holidays from the Community Development Department  
& the City of Monrovia's Green Team***

***On the Fourth Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this “green” tip to me:***

## **REDUCE JUNK MAIL**

In the City Manager's Office, we are committed to reducing junk mail, both at work and at home. The ladies at the front desk will be on the look out for multiple catalogs sent to departments and mail sent to employees that are no longer here and will be contacting the companies to remove the names.

We also encourage everyone to go the [www.discovery.com](http://www.discovery.com) and scroll down to the “pre-cycle” icon. For just \$43.00 you can stop most direct mail to your home, including advertisements, circulars, pre-approved credit card and mortgage offers, sweepstakes and other mailers. They will also plant 5 trees for signing up.

With your purchase, you'll receive...



### **Postal Junk Mail Reduction Kit**

Pre-cycle helps the environment by cutting waste — it stops most direct mail including advertisements, circulars, pre-approved credit card and mortgage offers, sweepstakes and other mailers. You will see positive results in about 90 days. We'll also plant 5 trees just for signing up.



### **Reusable Chico™ Shopping Bag**

The ChicoBag™ Original weighs only 1.5 ounces and stuffs down into a 3"x4" pouch. Its 25 pound carrying capacity makes it the ideal size for a trip to the grocery store or farmers market.



### **Two Eco-Friendly Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFL)**

Replace all those old fashioned bulbs with two CFL bulbs — they use 75 percent less energy and will last about 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb.

***Happy Holidays from the City Manager's Office  
& the City of Monrovia's Green Team***

***On the Fifth Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this "green" tip to me:***

- ❏ Recreation is a major contributor to our carbon footprints. Get outside to enjoy winter while it lasts, and help keep winter cool in the process. Instead of loading the family in the car and driving to the movie theater with its high-power projector, go for a walk, or take a family bike ride.
- ❏ Instead of paying a landscaping company to bring in their trucks, and leaf blowers, give your kids some rakes and get active.
- ❏ Instead of driving to the gym to exercise on an electric machine (a treadmill emits 2 lbs. of CO2 per hour), put on a hat and go for a jog in your neighborhood.
- ❏ Already a skier? Consider ditching the crowds, the expensive resorts, and the energy-intensive lodges, snow makers, and lifts (a 250-hp lift emits 1750 lbs. of CO2 each day), and heading into the backcountry on Nordic or telemark skis instead.
- ❏ Instead of driving to the mall to buy a gift for a friend or family member who already has everything, used the internet to give a meaningful and life changing gift for Christmas. Buy chickens, ducks, goats, or a cow for a family in a third world county. Check out [www.worldconcern.org/globalgiftguide](http://www.worldconcern.org/globalgiftguide) or other charitable websites.

***Happy Holidays From Community Services & the City of Monrovia's Green Team***

***On the Sixth Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this "green" tip to me:***

Consider these suggestions for green holiday purchases, gift wrapping and shipping:

- ❏ Consider buying a potted Norfolk pine, fig tree or indoor house plant that can be used every holiday season as your evergreen tree.
- ❏ Place easily identifiable recycling containers at your celebration so guests can recycle their beverage containers.
- ❏ Choose holiday cards made from recycled paper (each ton of recycled paper saves 380 gallons of oil and 17 trees).
- ❏ Recycle what you receive. Be creative; use old holiday cards to make gift tags, placemats, gift card boxes, etc.
- ❏ Donate cards to St. Jude's Ranch, a nonprofit home for youths that collects old holiday cards for reuse. Either cut off the backs of the cards or leave them intact. Mail the cards UPS "ground" or "bound printed matter" to St. Jude's Card Recycling, 100 St. Jude Street, P.O. Box 60100, Boulder City, NV 89006. For more information visit [www.stjudesranch.org](http://www.stjudesranch.org)

- 📦 Online purchasing can save gas (and hassle) - but skip the airmail shipping.
- 📦 Locally-made gifts are better for the local economy *and* better for the climate - plus, they are often more unique and personal.
- 📦 Make your own gifts—the more personal and meaningful
- 📦 Piles of packaging and wrapping from gifts contribute to a 25% jump in trash during the holidays. Choose gifts with minimal packaging, and wrap in reusable gift bags, with fabric, or recycled wrapping paper.
- 📦 Speaking of shipping and of packaging - combine your shipments and go easy on the packing materials whenever possible.
- 📦 Think small and lightweight with gifts that need to be mailed. Fewer or smaller boxes take up less space on mail trucks, so less petroleum is wasted.

***Happy Holidays from Finance & the City of Monrovia's Green Team***

***On the Seventh Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this “green” tip to me:***

When we drive to Grandma's house, the shopping mall, or a ski resort over the holidays, the miles really add up. It's an important time to remember some simple things you can do in your car to save money on gas and reduce your carbon footprint.

- 📦 Avoid idling. Whether caught in traffic, lining up at the drive-thru, or waiting by the curb, idling is extremely inefficient, and contrary to popular belief, idling does not save fuel. Ten seconds of idling uses more gas than restarting your engine.
- 📦 Resist the temptation to warm your car in the driveway, modern cars don't need pre-heating the way old ones did. Consider keeping gloves, an extra jacket and hat in your car to stay warm.
- 📦 Drive slowly and smoothly. Driving 65 instead of 75 will save you 1,400 lbs. of CO2 emissions every year, because speeding reduces your mileage. And accelerating and breaking slowly instead of abruptly can have just as great an effect.
- 📦 Check your tire pressure. The EPA estimates your fuel economy falls by 1% for every PSI your tires fall below the recommended level. So if your tires are at 15 instead of 20, correcting the problem will save you 136 lbs. of CO2 emissions every 2,800 miles. Tire pressure gauges make excellent stocking stuffers!

***Happy & Safe Travels this Holiday Season from Human Resources & the City of Monrovia's Green Team***

***On the Eighth Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this “green” tip to me:***

Here are some “GREEN” holiday personal safety tips from the Monrovia Police Department:

- 📦 Use programmable timers for indoor and out door lighting. This not only keeps you looking as if your home looks “lived in” (if traveling), but is also an energy and money saving measure. Use LED or solar lights for decorating.
- 📦 The Environment Defense Fund - <http://www.edf.org> has links to websites for you turn your home into an energy efficient home.
- 📦 If you are traveling for the holidays always have a plan and let a trusted neighbor know you will be gone. Provide them with your itinerary and contact phone numbers in case of an emergency. The following tips will help you be “green and safe”:

1. Have you newspapers donated to your local school while you are away. You will be saving trees and educating your local young people.

2. Have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail daily. They can even separate the junk mail out and put it in their recycling for you! For information on stopping or recycling your junk mail, go to: <http://ladpw.org/EPD/junkmail/>
3. If you are going to be gone during your regular trash pickup time, have a trusted neighbor bring your barrels out and back in for you. If you live in a "foothills/wildland area" be sure that your trash cans are not out before the designated time and that the cans are properly secured.
4. If you have a trusted neighbor watching your pets provide them with all of your pets licensing, animal control, poison control, and veterinary information in case the pet becomes ill or accidentally escapes. This information will help the pet sitter locate and care for your beloved pet if there is an emergency.

***Happy Holidays from the Monrovia Police Department & the City of Monrovia's Green Team***

***On the Ninth Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this "green" tip to me:***

Go **GREEN** and \$ave **GREEN** this Holiday Season at the Library!

Every year the holidays seem to creep up on us and can be very costly. Why not save money and the environment this Holiday season by lending at your new, local Monrovia Public Library. Instead of buying **new** books, CD's, DVD's and even magazine subscriptions this year, why not encourage your friends and family to lend these items.

Lending items from the library not only saves money, but helps reduce your carbon footprint. The journey of receiving a new item from the store is quite long, from the moment the item is made, until it gets to your house. Even after the item is purchased it may still end up in the landfill. To further help minimize your carbon footprint you can also donate your used books, DVD's, and CD's to the library. Every donor has the option of receiving a donation letter, for tax purposes, that further helps your pocket book. If you or someone you know wants to get a library card, all you need is to be 18 years old (children 17 and under need a parent/guardian with them) and bring in your California photo ID, with your current address on it.

Some Fun **GREEN** Library Facts:



- 📖 The *new* Monrovia Public Library is a LEED certified building.
- 📖 Library Cards went **GREEN** this year! There is no longer a paper application to fill out! The application is all done on the computer when you apply for a new library card at the Circulation Desk.
- 📖 You can purchase a reusable tote bag to carry your Library books, from the Friends Store for \$5. They also make a great holiday gift!

**GREEN**/Cost \$aving Ideas for your Holiday Break:

- 📖 Stay in and have a movie night at home - Instead of buying a DVD, lend one from the Library. It costs \$2 for 3 days compared to other rental places who may charge more.
- 📖 Avoid magazine clutter in your house – Instead of buying a subscription; check-out a magazine from the library.
- 📖 Have a reading day with your kids over the holiday break. Check-out and share some classic books that you loved as a child!
- 📖 Instead of paying top prices for a CD that you haven't heard, check one out from the library to see if you really want it for your own collection.

***Happy Holidays from the City of Monrovia Library & the City of Monrovia's Green Team***

***On the Tenth Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this "green" tip to me:***



The Winter holiday season is a festive time of year. Family gatherings and decorations are hallmarks of the season. Holiday safety should be part of our planning when preparing for these festive days. Here are a few suggestions to help you be safe and “green” during the holidays.

### **Before the season begins -**

- 🏠 Test your smoke detectors. If broken, replace and take detector and old batteries to a HHW Collection Event
- 🏠 Be careful using matches and candles. Candles should be made of non-toxic materials.
- 🏠 Keep decorations away from sources of heat such as open flames, electric heaters and exposed electric bulbs.
- 🏠 Don't overload electric outlets. Inspect electrical cords and light sets. If in doubt - throw them out.

### **Holiday Trees -**

- 🏠 Place the tree away from heat sources, such as fireplaces and heaters.
- 🏠 Keep your Christmas tree in a sturdy base filled with water. Check the water level daily.
- 🏠 Consider spraying your tree with a flame retardant.
- 🏠 Recycle your tree before it becomes dangerously dry. Never burn the tree or tree parts in your fireplace.

### **Holiday Lights -**

- 🏠 Use LED Christmas lights in place of standard incandescent strings. They use only 10% of the energy of standard light sets. Lower wattage means less chance for overheated wires and circuits that can lead to fires and injuries.
- 🏠 Use UL approved lights.
- 🏠 Examine all indoor and outdoor lights for frayed cords and replace if necessary. Never use lights that have an empty socket.
- 🏠 Lights should not touch combustible materials.
- 🏠 "Indoor" lights should never be used outdoors.
- 🏠 Use a programmable timer and turn off all Christmas lights, prior to leaving your home or going to bed.
- 🏠 Avoid using extension cords, but if you do follow instructions carefully.
- 🏠 Never burn wrappings in your fireplace, reuse wrappings as packaging or use reusable gift bags instead.

### **Holiday Meals -**

- 🏠 Buy produce at the Friday night at Monrovia Family Festival/Farmer's Market. Buying locally grown produce reduces the amount of fuel needed to transport perishable goods to the consumer.
- 🏠 Clean the oven and stove with non-toxic alternatives.
- 🏠 Keep a fire extinguisher handy in the kitchen. If you don't have one, they make excellent gifts.
- 🏠 Monitor flames and oven temperatures while cooking, don't leave stove unattended.

***Happy Holidays from the Monrovia Fire Department & the City of Monrovia's Green Team***

***On the Eleventh Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this “green” tip to me:***

On average, homes use 27% more lighting in December than they do in November. Here are some tips to help you save money and help the environment:

- 🏠 Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.

- ❏ When decorating minimize the size and amount of electric lights to save energy. LED lights use one-tenth the amount of energy as incandescent Christmas lights. Blinking lights use less energy.
- ❏ Give a programmable thermostat to help reduce energy costs year-round.
- ❏ Turning down your thermostat 1 degree will save you 136 lbs. CO2 in 2 months; you won't notice the difference. Or try turning it down 5 degrees, put on a sweater, toss another blanket on your bed, and save 136 lbs. CO2 in a few weeks.
- ❏ Additionally, make sure your thermostat is programmed to heat the house to room temperature only when you will be at home and awake—keeping it at 55 degrees when you're asleep and at work will save major dollars and pounds.
- ❏ If you're going away for the holidays, make sure you turn down the heat to 50 degrees before you leave.
- ❏ With guest's natural body heat warming a room, you can turn down the furnace when you are expecting guests. Lowering your thermostat five degrees can save 10% on your energy bill.

***Happy Holidays From the Public Works Department, Facilities Section & the City of Monrovia's Green Team***

***On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, the Green Team gave this "green" tip to me:***

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, more than 33 million trees are sold every year. If you buy a live tree, be sure to plant it or donate it to a local organization, school or nursing home to be planted. If you buy a cut tree, remove all decorations including tinsel, lights and stands before putting it curbside to be recycled. Contact your city to find out more about Christmas Tree Recycling in your community.

***Happy Holidays from the Public Works Department, Parks Section & the City of Monrovia's Green Team***

