



Simply Green

Live well, tread gently

December, 2007, Holiday Edition

The SCA's newest committee, Planet Manhasset, presents its first monthly eco-tip sheet, offering easy-to-implement ideas in support of a greener and healthier lifestyle. The committee invites you to share your own green tips by emailing: PlanetManhasset@yahoo.com.

- **Light up the night with LED holiday lights.** Now widely available, LED lights are sold in strings and look just like regular incandescents, but they last longer and use up to 96% less energy. They are also safer, as they never get hot. Solar-powered versions are even better. Download LED coupon at lipower.org.
- **It's a wrap! Avoid wasting countless rolls of paper and endless hours wrapping gifts; make the wrap part of the present:** A shopping tote makes a simple, attractive & reusable package (check out bazurashop.com, or reusablebags.com); for college students, a small laundry bag is always appreciated; every kid loves a fun pillowcase; and younger kids like drawstring backpacks to decorate and tote toys (try crafts stores). Roll or fold bag around present, finish off with ribbon and nametag. Alternatively, try wrapping smaller items in a scarf. For must-box items, decorate boxes with posters, pages from magazines, or other scrap paper, or simply have kids draw on the box. Scrap paper, leftover fabric, or last year's cards can be cut with pinking shears and used for nametags.
- **Real vs. Artificial Christmas Tree – which is more environmentally sound?** Real is best, according to the National Arbor Day Foundation. Ideally, bringing in a live, potted tree to plant outside after Christmas is best. If that isn't practical, visit a local tree farm. Trees are farmed like an agricultural product on soil not suited to other crops. For every tree cut, 2-3 seedlings are planted. Trees add oxygen, reduce carbon dioxide, are biodegradable, compostable and, in some areas, they are recycled into mulch. Conversely, artificial trees are made of landfill-clogging pvc.

For more information on Planet Manhasset or any SCA committee/event, please visit

www.manhassetzca.org

Questions/comments? Please e-mail

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