



HaPPY Festival

Green Tips by Friends of the Earth (HK)



Christmas and New Year seem to have become the annual carnivals that everyone is keen to celebrate. Are you busy preparing a party, or looking for gifts for your family and friends?

Hong Kong is a city of high consumption, and everyone loves shopping and consuming. Along with continuous discarding, waste generation keeps increasing out of control. Various decorative lightings, package papers and decorations generating numerous waste while increasing the consumption of energy.

Friends of the Earth (HK) is organizing **Green Festival** Programme covering Christmas and New Year, with the theme **HaPPY – Have a Pleasant & Peaceful Year** aiming at reducing festive waste and fostering a green consumption culture.

Gift Selection

Gift-giving has become increasingly commercialized. A variety of advertising encourage shopping and purchasing. However, many gifts do not fit the needs of recipients and become “waste” eventually.

The most effective way to reduce waste is to avoid generating waste.



If you want to receive gifts, how about exchange second-hand items with others?

Organize an exchange party for second-hand items, maybe you can help them find a more suitable home.

If you don't want your gifts to be putted away and be forgotten, below are some "Green" gifts.

- ✓ Giving **time and experiences**, like share your precious knowledge with your friends and family, invite your friend to enjoy a meaningful show, take a fitness lesson for good health, invite your friends to dinner at your home, or take a one-day trip to a suburb, are excellent alternatives to packaged material gifts.
- ✓ Donations to a favourite cause are always appreciated. You may **donate to a charity** in your name or your friends' names. You may also consider **being a volunteer**.
- ✓ Consider **giving carbon-offset as gifts** to those who take airplanes to your place for the holiday.
- ✓ If you have to choose store-bought gifts, buy the ones made from **recycled sources and locally made**.
- ✓ Select practical or second-hand gifts, even better if you can **DIY**.
- ✓ Use **rechargeable batteries** in all your gifts, if any.
- ✓ **Skip wrapping paper or paper boxes whenever possible**. Use a recycled magazine, newspaper, paper bag, old map, or poster as wrapping paper. Fabric or rope would be another option. Get even more creative by wrapping the gift up in a second gift like a scarf or hat.
- ✓ If you have to buy wrapping paper, buy the ones printed on **recycled paper and save the rest for next year**.



Decoration

Use your imagination. A lot of "waste" can be reused. Just a little modifications, they can be turned into unique decorations that demonstrate your creativity.

Don't dump anything if it still can be used, which can effectively reduce the waste of resources.



Decorate your office with **natural ornaments**, or collect **recyclable materials** from colleagues to decorate your office. You can even organize a **decoration competition** among the staff.

For example:

- ✓ **Fruits**, which you can eat eventually.
- ✓ **Potted plants**, when it is time to take down decorations, you still have some plants.
- ✓ Collect **old paper cards** to make decorations.
- ✓ Collect the **bags of snack**, wash and cut into strips, link them together to make reflective **ornaments**.
- ✓ Collect **small stones** and put into glass bottle, it can become a beautiful decoration.
- ✓ Collect **old jars** and place candles inside to make **lanterns**.
- ✓ Collect **used bottles**, paint them different colours, and use as a **vase**.
- ✓ Collect **empty plastic bottles** to build a small **Christmas tree**, and recycle properly afterwards.
- ✓ Collect **used badminton shuttlecocks and tennis balls** to make **decorative dolls**.
- ✓ Collect **used papers, magazines, plastic bags or packages** to fold into **stars or flowers**.

Lightings

- ✓ Choose **LED lights** instead of traditional coloured lights to save energy.
- ✓ Use **candle** lights instead of ordinary light bulbs.
- ✓ Set your outdoor decoration lights on a **timer** to avoid unnecessary energy consumption.



Food Selection

Food and drinks are the highlights of the party, but not necessary to be lavish during festivals.

Choose healthy food and avoid food left over , you are helping to reduce the burden to environment.



- ✓ Select **organic** and **fair trade** food products.
- ✓ Buy **food products in bulk** to reduce packaging waste.
- ✓ Buying **local food** rather than imported food will reduce food miles and CO2 emissions.
- ✓ Discuss with your guests about the **preference and quantity** while preparing the food, so as to avoid food waste.
- ✓ By preparing **more vegetables instead of meats**, and **reducing the cooking time**, you are helping to reduce CO2 footprint of your food.
- ✓ **Natural and fresh** are essential for low-carbon diet, avoid food with excessive artificial flavors and additives.
- ✓ For vegetarians, prepare **beans** to replace meat.



Party Day

How to organize a low-carbon party?

What to prepare in advance, and what should be noticed on the day of party?

Below are some tips that you should pay attention to.



Party Preparation

- ✓ Send out your **invitations by e-mail**.
- ✓ Encourage your guests and colleagues to travel by **public transport or carpool**.
- ✓ Cut up old holiday cards to use as **table seating place cards** or **direction signs**.
- ✓ Encourage people to **dress down**, and ask your guests to bring their own **reusable tableware** instead of using disposable tableware.
- ✓ Set up proper **recycling** facilities in convenient locations.

Party Day

- ✓ Air conditioning is the electric appliance that consumes most energy. **Pay attention to the indoor temperature**, and avoid too-low a temperature as that wastes energy. You may save about 3% of energy for every 1°C increase of adjustment of temperature.
- ✓ Point out **recycling bins** to guests when they arrive, so as to make sure all your empty cans, bottles, jars, package bags and etc, find their way to your recycling bins.
- ✓ **Not to waste food**. In the party games you may consider asking those that lose in the games to finish the leftover food, which not only reduces waste, but also is fun.
- ✓ Save your Christmas decorations, wrapping papers, and cards to **reuse in the future**.
- ✓ Remember to **switch off** all the lights and electric appliances that are not in use after the party.



Holiday Cards

Use e-card instead of paper card, you can save the trees and reduce carbon dioxide emissions that generated during paper card production and mailing.


快字中的「人」，和樂字中的「木」，正好提醒大家，快樂是要以「人」為本；善用電子卡，保留一樹一「木」。感謝一眾合作夥伴，與我們分享綠色節日的快樂。

快樂

- ✓ Christmas greeting is precious because of its **sincere contents** instead of a paper card. e-cards help you deliver your blessings in a more efficient and environmental way.
- ✓ If you do receive paper cards, **recycle the paper properly** after the holiday.

Many of the tips above are equally applicable for birthdays, anniversaries and other events in every season.

Now you have learned the true meaning of “Green Festival”. What is the next step? Send your truehearted greetings to your family, friends, and co-workers with e-cards immediately.



Friends of the Earth (HK) developed a series of six e-card this year. The e-cards will take you to another place in time, Fukushima Japan (日本福島) between 2007-2010. You are invited to take part in this virtual tour and share the beautiful scenes to your family and friends by using our e-cards. [More green greetings covering Christmas and CNY](#) are featuring in the website.

**We wish you all HaPPY –
Have a Pleasant and Peaceful Year.
May a simple life bring you
happiness and spiritually wealthy!**

[Friends of the Earth \(HK\) Green Festival e-cards](#)
[Click Here](#)

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