



“Green” Your Thanksgiving!

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As we approach the holiday season, I Love A Clean San Diego encourages you to take simple steps to ensure that holiday festivities are as sustainable as possible. Whether you are shopping, cooking, entertaining, or traveling, read on for tips to make your Thanksgiving Green!

1. Travel smart this season by utilizing public transportation or carpooling to family dinners, parties, and holiday shopping sprees. Be sure to encourage your guests to carpool as well and include a reminder on your party invitations.
2. Rather than sending paper invitations to your holiday gatherings, create an Evite or email your invitations. Not only are they cheaper and greener, they will arrive faster and automatically organize your RSVPs.
3. When shopping for your Thanksgiving dinner, opt for an organic, free-range turkey. These turkeys are cage-free and able to move about in a yard. Visit <http://www.localharvest.org/store/turkey.jsp> to order your turkey online or search for a local turkey farm. Avoid deep-frying your turkey as a healthier option. If you do use a deep fryer, consult ILACSD’s Recycling Database to recycle your used oil at a location near you.
4. If these more costly turkeys are outside of your budget, buy a regular turkey and supplement local, organic vegetables. Shop farmer’s markets, and be sure to look for produce that is in season. Seasonal pumpkins and pecans are ideal this time of year, so choose these Thanksgiving traditions for your pies this year.
5. Look for items with the least amount of packaging to reduce waste generated by your meal.
6. Remember your reusable tote bags at the grocery store!
7. When decorating your home and dining room table, create a festive autumn theme by using natural materials like fallen leaves or pine cones from your yard. These items will save you money and storage space year-round for décor only used once a year. Use candles to light your table, saving on electricity while also creating a softly lit atmosphere.
8. After your meal, don’t let extra food go to waste. Send your guests home with leftovers packaged in reusable containers. Visit <http://www.seriousseats.com/2008/11/thanksgiving-turkey-leftover-recipes.html> for some creative recipes that will vary up your leftover routine. Recipes include fun new ways to enjoy your turkey, potatoes, and cranberry leftovers.
9. Compost your table scraps rather than letting them go to waste in the trash. Food waste can be composted into rich, fertile soil for your yard and garden, rather than taking up space trapped in a landfill. Local environmental organization, the Solana Center, offers many composting tips and workshops to learn how to best compost for every living situation.
10. If you plan to take advantage of the after Thanksgiving sales on Friday, plan ahead! Rather than making several trips to the mall or shopping center, make the most of your trip by creating a list of gifts and planning out your route in accordance. Not only will you save on gas and reduce your carbon footprint, you will accomplish a lot by devoting a day to checking off your holiday shopping! Plus, by bringing your reusable bags, you will be able to carry a lot more without worrying about flimsy plastic bags breaking or tearing.

ILACSD wishes you a happy holiday season, and hopes you can incorporate these fun and easy going green tips into your celebrations! Stay tuned for additional holiday tips with details about Christmas tree recycling and more!