

Christmas can be the most wonderful time of the year but, with all the cards that are sent, presents covered in wrapping paper and food packaged in plastic, it can have a big impact on the environment. Try to have a very happy and sustainable Christmas by trying out as many of these ideas as you can. Tick the box when you complete an activity and share your successes with the rest of your class in the New Year.

GO GREEN CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

- 1 Found a stash of Christmas cards from last year? Get creative and use them to make your own reusable Christmas decorations.

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- 2 Ask your adults to use recycled and recyclable wrapping paper and to avoid paper with foil or glitter in (this can't be recycled). You can even re-use last year's paper.

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Bows and ribbons on presents might look pretty but they are not usually recyclable, so they end up in landfill. Use fabric to create your own reusable ribbons to decorate presents with... and be sure to use them again next year!

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Lots of food gets wasted over the Christmas period. Search online for tasty recipes which use up any leftover food... and then ask your adults if you can have a go at making the recipe together!

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Instead of buying Christmas crackers which can't be recycled, ask your adults at home if you can make your own crackers instead. Roll a small gift up inside recycled and recyclable paper and then tie each end with a recyclable paper tie. You can even write your own jokes to add to the crackers!



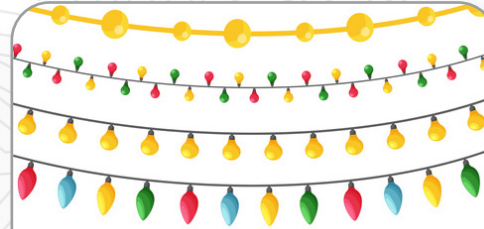
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If you are visiting relatives nearby, ask your adults if you can all walk there together instead of driving. It's better for the environment and helps us to stay fit and healthy too!



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If your adults are buying festive lights to put up inside or outside your home, ask them to buy LED lights as they use up less energy. Remember to turn the lights off when you go out and when you all go to bed.



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Rather than buying brand new party clothes and Christmas jumpers, ask your adults if you can look in charity shops for pre-loved clothes or ask older siblings and friends if you can borrow things that no longer fit them.



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Instead of buying fruits and vegetables in plastic packaging, ask your adults to buy loose items. The wonky fruit and veg taste just as good as the perfect ones!



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If you are buying gifts for somebody, try to buy a sustainable gift, like a bar of shampoo, or an eco-friendly, soy wax candle. You could even make your own special present for someone, by painting a picture for them or baking sweet treats (with the help of an adult!).



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Eating fruit and vegetables that are in season is better for the environment... it is usually cheaper and tastes great too! Research what food is in season in December and share a list of the best fruit and veg to buy with your adults.



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If you have a real Christmas tree at home, when the celebrations are over, take it into the garden and use it to make a bug and bird hotel! If you have an artificial (not real) tree, ask your parents to re-use the same tree for at least 5 years. This reduces the impact that it has on the environment.

