

10 Easy Tips for an Eco-Friendly Thanksgiving

1. Simplify the day. Celebrate being with those you love. Don't overdo the cooking - and savor whatever you make. Linger over dessert, play games, watch football or a favorite movie, take a walk. Revive special traditions from the past and create new ones you can turn to next Thanksgiving, and the holiday after that.



2. Decorate with boughs and berries. Head out to your yard with a pair of shears and find tree branches, bush stems loaded with berries, flowers whose seed heads have dried on the stem, and flowering grasses to fill tall vases, hollowed out pumpkins and gourds.

3. Let there be light. Illuminate your table with candles of varying heights and widths. Use votives in small glasses or carved sugar pumpkins.

4. Serve locally grown food. Purchase locally grown greens, potatoes, root vegetables, apples, pears, spices, breads, and cheeses at your local Farmers market.



5. Offer organic beverages. From apple cider to wine & beer, you have plenty of organic drinks to choose from.

6. Eat all the food you make. Send guests home with leftovers in reusable glass jars rather than wrapped in plastic or aluminum foil. Freeze leftovers in easily re-heatable portions.

7. Use reuseables. Serve your meal on cloth tablecloths and napkins, accompanied by "real" silverware and plates. Don't worried about cleaning up after a large crowd, let everyone pitch in - that's half the fun!

8. Simmer cinnamon. Roasting vegetables and baking pies should infuse your home with delicious holiday aromas. For even more fragrant smells, simmer a few sticks of cinnamon and a few cloves of allspice on the stove. Dab a few drops of pine oil or other favorite fragrance on stones or pinecones that are part of your centerpiece.

9. Turn down the heat. If all your holiday cooking doesn't heat up your house, your guests will. Turn your thermostat down 3-5 degrees - no one will notice the difference.

10. Recycle and compost. Keep the recycling bin handy for plastic food containers, metal cans and cartons you can recycle. Reuse glass bottles & jars. Make soup from vegetable peelings, leftover meat and bones. Picked-over vegetables can be composted, but remaining meat and bones will need to be thrown away.