

Make it a Zero Waste Valentine's Day

The City of Oberlin, *Recycling* Encourages Residents & Businesses to Celebrate Valentine's Day the Zero Waste Way.

Valentine's Day, like other holidays, often creates a lot of waste. Shopping contributes to much of that waste but there are other options. Here are some **tips** on how to have a **green Valentine's Day** while still being kind to the environment.



Bake instead of buy: Instead of buying sweets, try baking something homemade with local ingredients!

Purchase sustainably made chocolate: Chocolate is a must on Valentine's Day. When purchasing chocolate, be sure to look for the seal on the product. The seal means that the chocolate was grown and harvested sustainably. Another idea is to opt for a locally made chocolate to support local chocolatiers.



Make a DIY card: Get creative and crafty by making a Valentine card from scratch with items you already have at home.



Green Your Valentine's Day Cards: It's not hard to find cards made from 100% recycled materials. If your artistic skills aren't up to the task, then offer your loved one a 3D message with **upcycled hearts**. Go even further by purchasing a fair-trade, eco-friendly Valentine's gift from **SERV International**, a *nonprofit since 1949, fighting global poverty through fair and ethical trade with unique gifts from around the world helping to supporting over 8,000 artisans and farmers annually by selling their beautiful handcrafts and delicious foods.*

Purchase locally sourced flowers: Remember to skip the plastic wrap and opt for paper packaging. Don't forget to compost the flowers afterwards!



Plant a Tree instead of flowers - Carbon emissions associated with cut-flower production can be as high as **3 kg of CO2 per flower**. Instead of flowers, why not give your Valentine a tree? If you **have a place** to plant it, you can watch your tree grow through the years along with your love for each other. But even if you don't have space, supporting **reforestation** on your beloved's behalf is a beautiful gesture. If only flowers will do, look for a local, organic **"slow flower"** grower here **in Ohio**.



Avoid unnecessary shopping: Giving an *Experience*, rather than a physical item, is one of the least likely things to create landfill waste.



Jewelry – It’s possible to find [ethical jewelry](#) from artisanal mines or [repurposed materials](#), and it’s often more affordable than what you find at the regular jewelry stores. If you’re planning to pop the question, consider a [lab-grown diamond](#) or even one made from [captured carbon](#) to make the right kind of impact.

Dinner – Instead of spending big bucks on expensive – and destructive – dinners of [steak](#) or [lobster](#), spend the extra cash on organic ingredients and make your Valentine a homemade, organic, [vegetarian meal](#). If your cooking won’t win anyone’s heart, at least look for a restaurant that serves local, organic food and uses [sustainable packaging](#) for leftovers.

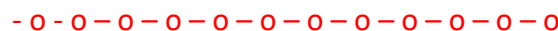


Bring reusables to dinner: When planning on eating out, make sure to pack some reusable containers to store any leftovers from the meal. When ordering takeout, use clean, durable reusables from home instead of the food vendor’s takeout containers.



Chocolate - Most chocolate produces [more climate emissions](#) than pork or poultry and uses [child labor](#). If you can’t imagine a Valentine’s Day without it, use Green America’s [chocolate scorecard](#) to find a treat for your sweet that won’t break hearts or the planet.

Sustainable Sexy Times – You can keep fast fashion out of your bedroom and still look racy with [sustainable lingerie brands](#). But the most sustainable clothing is your birthday suit. You can’t wear it many places, but it’s just right for Valentine’s Day.



Also, check-out these awesome [50 DIY Valentine’s Day Crafts for Kids and Adults of All Ages](#)

offered by *Good Housekeeping* - Faux Cross Stitch Socks, Wood Heart Napkin Rings, Heart Bath Bombs, Rainbow Valentine Card Box and 46 more Valentine DIY crafty fun gifts ideas.