

Guide to Celebrate an **ECO-CHRISTMAS**



A step-by-step guide
to celebrate an eco-friendly
Christmas.

BY
**DON BOSCO
GREEN ALLIANCE**

What sort of Christmas do I want to celebrate?

We have normalized Christmas to be a festival of shopping and celebrations. Businesses use Christmas as an opportunity to boost sales and achieve new levels of profits. Christmas-themed items and smart marketing, trap the consumer for a delightful shopping experience, but in the bid for profits and a pleasurable Christmas, we put our planet at stake.



Question

How am I celebrating Christmas this year?



The beauty in tiny, pretty decorations may trick one into buying a dozen items but eventually all these items enter the landfill. Dangerous chemicals found in decorations and food waste during Christmas is an issue that needs close attention.



The meaning of Christmas lies around the little baby, the radiant light who came to show the sojourners of Earth the way to eternal life and that our journey on Earth is much more than we can imagine.

How can we combat over-consumption? How can we celebrate a sustainable festival?

Thoughtful consumption is challenging. Everyone does not have access to products made sustainably and products that are Eco-friendly are not always affordable. Keeping this in mind, the Eco Christmas campaign led by the Don Bosco Green Alliance aims to promote a Christmas centred on consuming less and yet giving more back. The Eco Christmas campaign aims to reduce wasteful consumption while still embracing the spirit of giving during the festive season.

Steps to reduce your Christmas consumption

The activity will help you avoid many purchases from our cart thereby reducing our carbon footprint.

1. List down all the things you need for Christmas this year. Divide them into categories such as clothing, household items, decoration, food, gifts, etc.
2. Cross out the items you already have from the previous year's purchase.
3. Cross out the items that you could do without.
4. Ensure the items you buy are sustainable.

Let's look for innovative ways to celebrate an Eco-friendly Christmas!



Actions for an Eco-Friendly Christmas



1. Make your own Christmas ornaments, e.g., salt dough or recycled cardboard

2. Commit not to buy anything new unless vital.



3. Purchase local and seasonal produce.

4. Reduce consumption of meat and dairy products.



Actions for an Eco-Friendly Christmas



5. Reduce your energy use -
Switch off lights and
appliances.



6. Buy energy-efficient
products, when they need
replacing.



7. Donate the surplus food

8. Ensure the festival expenses
for Christmas are
environmentally friendly and
sustainable.



The Joy of Gifting

The tradition of gift-giving is tied to the story of the Biblical Magi giving gifts to baby Jesus; together with another story, of Saint Nicholas, a fourth-century Christian bishop and gift-giver. This tradition is beneficial when used towards reaching out to the poor. However, gift-giving today has become more about gifting branded items and expensive toys. Retailers have capitalized on the concept of gifting and through their effective marketing strategies make Christmas a profitable period, causing harm to our common home.



“May we celebrate the holidays in a way that pays tribute to the reason for the season. May we enjoy our time with family and friends while also ensuring that our actions do not cause harm to our planet.”

The Joy of Gifting



Gift your time - Volunteer in your community



Giftting for a cause
