



City of Santa Barbara
SUSTAINABILITY
& RESILIENCE

Sustainable Holidays Countdown Calendar





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Sustainable Holidays

Countdown Calendar

1 Make a list and plan your shopping to reduce impulse buying and minimize waste.

2 Support local businesses and artisans when purchasing gifts and decorations.

3 Bring reusable grocery bags when shopping for holiday groceries or gifts.

4 If attending holiday parties, carpool with friends or family to reduce carbon emissions.

5 Get creative with alternatives to commercial gift wrap like fabric, newspapers, or scarves.

6 Choose recycled paper or e-cards for holiday greetings.

7 Use energy-efficient LED holiday lights to decorate your home.

8 Opt for decor like pinecones, branches, and dried flowers for decorations that are biodegradable.

9 If traveling, consider eco-friendly transportation options to offset your carbon footprint.

10 Minimize single-use items at holiday gatherings and use reusable plates, utensils, and cloth napkins.

11 Set up a compost bin for food scraps and other organic waste during family dinners and potlucks.

12 Consider incorporating more plant-based dishes into your holiday meals.

13 Donate excess food to local food banks or shelters.

14 Make your own decorations from recycled materials or items you already have.

15 Invest in rechargeable batteries. Place used batteries in a sealed bag on top of your blue bin for recycling.

16 Most scented candles release volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Opt for unscented soy or beeswax candles.

17 Create personalized gifts, crafts, or treat your friends and family to home baked goodies.

18 Avoid wrapping paper with foil or glitter, which are not recyclable and can end up polluting our environment.

19 Skip the cheap plastic or "gag" gifts and instead invest in something meaningful and lasting.

20 Use timers for your outdoor string lights and other electric décor to save electricity.

21 After the holidays, remove decorations and place trees curbside on your greenwaste collection day.

22 Encourage guests to bring reusable containers to take home leftovers.

23 Consider a potted tree that can be planted later, or an artificial tree that can be reused annually.

24 Organize a gift swap with friends or coworkers to trade unwanted items.