



SHOPPING WITH OUR VALUES

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# A Guide to Sustainable Holiday Giving

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2020



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## INTRODUCTION

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After a year of unprecedented change, another holiday season is now upon us. While the holidays are about celebrating our traditions, Hazon-Metro Detroit challenges you to choose to give differently this year. We challenge you to give in a way that is sustainable and mindful, to think creatively about the different ways that you can show your love for others while also showing your love for the Earth. Using this guide as a platform, we encourage you to consider giving experiences rather than physical gifts. Give what you already have before giving something new. Recognize the value of giving the gift of thought. However, if you do buy physical gifts this holiday season, consider supporting small local owned businesses. Alternatively, perhaps choose to support a large company that supports sustainability or social impact efforts. When we support companies committed to using business for good, we are communicating our support for a new type of business. One in which the promotion of people, the planet, and profit are not mutually exclusive. Use your dollars this holiday season to shop with your values.



What was the most meaningful gift you've ever received?

Was it a consumer good?

A thoughtful letter or handmade gift?

A conversation?

A meal?

How can you pay this meaningful gift forward?

## Giving the Gift of Experience

One of the easiest ways to shop sustainably this holiday season is to opt out of buying a physical gift in favor of giving an experience. The most sustainable gifts are those that require no materials to build. Here are some ideas on some unique Metro-Detroit experiences for you and your family to enjoy.

### Pottery Class or Gallery Visit at Art in Motion Detroit\*



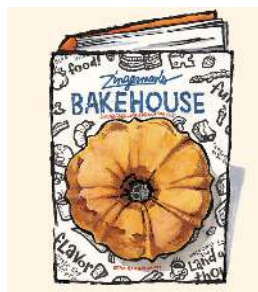
Give the gift of a new hobby and support this locally owned business by purchasing a pottery class for your loved one! Alternatively, head over to the Art in Motion studio space to browse their unique selection of ceramics in the gallery. Price: \$, From: <https://artinmotiondet.com/classes/>

### An Annual Pass to Your Local Metropark



Encourage your loved ones to get outdoors through the gift of an annual pass to their local metro park. Unlock thousands of miles of trails, beautiful scenery, and a place to gather safely with friends and family. Follow the link below to purchase access to 13 metroparks in the Detroit area. Price: \$\$, From: <https://web1.vermontsystems.com/wbWSC/mihuronclintonwt.wsc>

### Cooking Classes with Zingerman's Bakehouse



This Ann Arbor institution known for its deli offerings and baked goods offers cooking and baking classes in both an in person and virtual format. A great gift for your aspiring chefs and bakers!

Price: \$\$\$, From: <https://www.bakewithzing.com/>

### Local History Map Tour - Detroit Experience Factory\* and The Black Scroll Network\*



Give the gift of education through this local history tour. Led by educator and historian Jamon Jordan, his tours engage with the rich African American history in the city of Detroit and beyond.

Price: \$, From: <https://blackscrollnetwork.weebly.com/>



The Detroit Experience Factory offers a number of fascinating tours, both virtually and in person, that seek to understand Detroit through its people, places, and projects. From offerings such as “A short history of racism in Detroit” to “Land Use and Sustainability,” there are a myriad of complex topics and issues to engage with.

Price: \$, From: <https://detroitexperiencefactory.org/>

### Online Airbnb Experience



Airbnb offers online classes and tours with individuals from your home community and from around the world. Take a cooking class from a sushi chef in Japan, make macarons with a pastry chef in France, or play an escape room in Poland. Book an experience for you and a loved one and give the gift of an unforgettable shared experience.

Price: \$-\$\$\$\$, From: <https://www.airbnb.com>

### The Gift of a CSA membership (Community Supported Agriculture)



Support local farmers and give the gift of fresh and nutritious food through purchasing your loved one a CSA membership for a weekly produce box of seasonal fruits and veggies. There are a number of farms in Detroit and Metro-Detroit that offer CSA shares so do your research and find a farm that speaks to you!

Price: \$\$ From: <https://www.localharvest.org/search>

### Charitable Donations



One of the best ways to show your love for someone is supporting what they love. Find a cause to donate to that your gift recipient holds near and dear to their heart or check out GiveWell (linked below) for a list of some of the most impactful charities making a difference worldwide.

Price: \$-\$\$\$\$, From: [givewell.org](http://givewell.org)

\*Black owned business

## Giving With What You Already Have

Giving a meaningful gift does not require going out and purchasing a new item. Homemade gifts can convey your appreciation and love for someone else just as much as something bought from a store, all the while being more sustainable. Gifting with what we have, whether that means giving with the materials we already have or giving with our actions and ideas, is a sustainable way to give this holiday season.

### The Gift of Thought:



A gift can simply be an online video, photo montage, or handwritten note. Words or images that express how much a person means to you can be the best and most meaningful gifts of all.

Price: Free

### The Gift of Time:



Plan a visit to a family member, offer to go on a walk with an old friend, block out a day in your schedule to spend with a loved one. In today's chaotic world, quality time is often in short supply and is thus of extreme value. Your undivided presence is a priceless gift.

### Jar Mixes



Give the gift of a ready-to-make meal or snack. From soups, to cookies, to hot cocoa, to nut butter mixes, repurpose your old mason jars to become a thoughtful and tasty gift. Follow this link for 30 jar recipes using what you already have in your pantry.

Price: Free-\$, From: <https://www.tasteofhome.com>

### DIY Compost Bin



Use recovered pallets, old rubbermaid bins, a five-gallon bucket, or an upcycled cardboard box to give the gift of composting. Follow the guide below to help your loved one decrease their food waste and revitalize their garden with nutrient rich soil.

Price: Free-\$, From: <https://www.diyncrafts.com/33618/home/gardening/>

**101 More Ideas:** Visit [this website](#) for 101 more creative DIY gifts using what you already have on hand.

# Shopping With Your Values

This section seeks to provide you with a number of companies who are dedicated to social justice, environmental sustainability, and ethical labor. When we choose to give our dollars to one of these companies, we are sending a message that these issues matter to us as consumers. Through intentional purchasing, we are challenged to not only shop for a product but also shop for a company that has demonstrated corporate principles aligned with what we value.

## 1. Support Black Owned Businesses:

One way to engage in active anti-racism is to support Black owned businesses both in your own community and nationally. While all small businesses have been harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic, black owned businesses have been disproportionately impacted.

- Why support Black owned businesses? [Click here](#)
- How COVID-19 has impacted Black owned businesses: [Click here](#)

### Detroit/Metro Detroit

- Visit [this website](#) for a large list of Black owned businesses in Detroit and Metro-Detroit, from salons, to goods, to event spaces, to restaurants.

### National

- **Black Owned Shops Etsy:** [Click here](#)
  - Etsy is a sales platform for small artists and businesses to sell their products to a national and international audience. Recently, Etsy has added a section featuring thousands of products from Black business owners across the country. Etsy also offers neat, one-of-a-kind gifts including recycled, upcycled and repurposed items.
- **180 Black-Owned Businesses To Support:** [Click here](#)
- **We Buy Black:** [Click here](#)
  - The largest online marketplace for Black-owned businesses.

## 2. Logos to Look For:



### B Corporation:

This is a certification awarded to businesses that meet the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose.



### Fair Trade:

This certification is given to brands that have met the Fair Trade organization's stringent standards for ethical labor and fair wage practices.

### 3. Clothing Brands Doing Good

- **ThredUp: the world's largest online thrift store:** [Click Here](#)  
Thrifted clothes is not only a way to find fun and unique pieces. It also prevents clothing from ending up in the landfill and is a practice in the mindset of using what we have before we buy something new.
- **Everlane:** [Click Here](#)  
Committed to radical transparency, fair labor and wages, and sustainability, Everlane is a clothing brand leading the charge against fast fashion towards a more sustainable clothing industry.
- **Klow:** [Click Here](#)  
Klow is a marketplace of brands committed to ethical supply chains in terms of both social and environment sustainability. Visit their website to discover a number of new and exciting brands committed to driving sustainable change.

Learn more about ethical and sustainable clothing brands [here](#)

### 4. Shop Local:

- Support your local farmers by visiting the farmer's market
- Visit your city's chamber of commerce website to discover new, local businesses
- Avoid Amazon and other exploitative retailers, instead, shop local stores whenever possible
- Detroit/Metro Detroit: Visit Eastern Market's Holiday Market Sunday 10:00-4:00

## Reducing your Footprint on the Go - Shopping And Dining

If you do purchase a physical gift this holiday season, consider buying something that will give back to the Earth. One way to do this is by using your purchase to help your loved one reduce their plastic footprint. Gift alternatives to plastic take-out containers, straws, and plastic bottles. Here are some ideas to help encourage loved ones to go green when they go out.

### Reusable Stainless Steel Straws



Every year thousands of pounds of plastic waste make their way to the oceans where they pollute the waters and poison marine life. Always keeping one of these steel straws in your purse or bag is an easy way to avoid using unnecessary plastic and protect marine life!

Price Point: \$, From: <https://greenssteel.com/products/stainless-steel-straws>

## Reusable Produce Bags



Take the plastic out of your produce shop with these reusable, mesh produce bags! Made with organic cotton, these bags are made with a sustainable material that minimizes its impact on the environment.

Price Point: \$, From: <https://theearthlingco.com/products/cotton-produce-bags>

## Reusable Food Storage Bags



Replace your ziploc bags with these reusable snack and sandwich bags made from BPA free/recycled materials. Great for lunches or any meal on the go, these bags are any easy way to reduce your plastic footprint. These bags are also made by a women owned business and certified B corporation.

Price Point: \$\$, From: <https://thrivemarket.com/p/re-zip-reusable-lunch-bags>

## Bamboo To-Go Ware



Stop using plastic silverware for good with this bamboo utensil set. Made by a certified B corporation, this product was made by a company committed to going above and beyond to further social impact and environmental sustainability. An added bonus is these utensils are dishwasher safe!

Price: \$, From: <https://www.patagoniaprovisions.com/products/bamboo-utensil>

## Zero-Waste Starter Kit



Support a small business and set your loved one towards a more sustainable lifestyle with this zero-waste starter kit. With the ability to mix-and-match a variety of zero waste items, this kit offers you the flexibility to tailor your gift giving to the needs of the recipient.

Price: \$\$, From: <https://www.etsy.com/listing/892009909>



The United States is the leader in global food waste with over 30% of the US food supply heading to landfills each year where it decomposes and releases the potent greenhouse gas methane. Encourage your loved ones to reduce their food waste first through a conversation, and then maybe through the gift of one of these products:

## Compost Bin



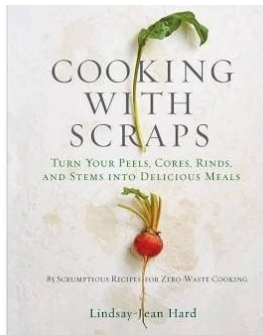
Use this bin as the destination for food scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, and more. The internal filter of this bin combats odors and prevents smells from attracting any unwanted critters.

Price: \$\$, From: <https://www.netzerocompany.com/products/compost-bin>

\*Also See “giving with what you already have” for DIY compost bin

## *Cooking with Scraps: Turn Your Peels, Cores, Rinds, and Stems Into Delicious Meals*

Book by Lindsay-Jean Hard



This wonderful cookbook offers hundreds of delicious recipes to divert your food scraps from your trash to your fork and is a great addition to any aspirational zero-wasters' toolbelt. Consider purchasing from a local bookstore rather than Amazon!

Price: \$\$, From: your locally owned bookstore