

non-material gifts (cont'd)

www.treegivers.com

Have a tree planted in the US or globally for as little as \$30.

www.defenders.org/adopt ★

Adopt a wolf, dolphin, or other at-risk animal! Send a tax deductible contribution of \$25, and Defenders of Wildlife will use your gift to bolster their efforts to defend wildlife and wild places.

★ You'll receive an official adoption certificate, and a subscription to their magazine *Defenders*.

www.renewablechoice.com

For \$30, Your gift of American Wind™ guarantees that environmentally sustainable sources of energy produce our electricity rather than dirty non-renewable sources like coal or, nuclear. In addition to that satisfaction, you get a gift card, personalized wind certificate, sticker, window cling and 24-minute video. You can also call Jonathan of Renewable Choice Energy at 1-877-810-8670

www.nativeenergy.com/gift.html

For \$15, buy a WindBuilder's Gift Membership, which keeps a ton (or more) of carbon dioxide out of the air while helping to build the first Native American-owned large-scale wind turbine. You can also call 1-800-924-6826

www.worldvisiongifts.org

WorldVision, a Christian relief and development organization, will help you give a mosquito net, medicine, or a year of school to people in developing countries.

nationalzoo.si.edu/Support/AdoptSpecies

Adopt a Komodo dragon through the National Zoo for \$65, or to another animal of your choice. Similar programs exist at zoos across the US—find yours: www.aza.org/FindZooAquarium

www.nature.org/joinanddonate/donate/holiday.html

The Nature Conservancy's "Adopt an Acre" or "Rescue a Reef" programs are a great gift option. The story on Harry Potter's owls is nice for kids.

www.ran.org/give/paa

Rainforest Action Network's Protect-an-Acre program has a great kid's section, and works with local people on alternative economic development options.

www.charitygift.com

This site will send a card and your contribution to the recipient, and allow him or her to choose the organization to donate to. Lots of local charities listed.

www.futureforests.com/acatalog/index_shop_ourshop.asp

Pay to plant a tree or distribute energy-efficient technology in the developing world with this British website. FutureForests also works with numerous celebrities including the FooFighters, Pink Floyd, and Coldplay to make the production and distribution of their CDs carbon neutral; pay \$15 to plant a tree in one of the band's forests!

www.co2.org

Offset your carbon with ClimateCare, another British site dedicated to helping people become carbon neutral. Your purchase will stimulate investment in renewable energy in the developing world. Both FutureForests and ClimateCare accept American credit cards, but you will be charged in £s.

material gifts

Although all material gifts will have some environmental impact, it is still possible to make sustainable choices. Any gift that uses less material, requires less energy to make and use, or lasts longer (and thus has to be thrown out less often) is a more sustainable purchase.

Think about how each gift you purchase is made - what environmental effect does its production process have? What kind of employment does it generate, and to whom do the profits accrue?

Does your choice support the kind of world you want to live in?

thrift and vintage gifts

Antiques and vintage clothing are quite popular, and they also happen to be a very sustainable gift. These items have already been manufactured, and by purchasing them we are transforming what could be “garbage” into a useful item.

Check your local phone book to find the thrift store closest to you. Try searching eBay for other great gifts.

fair trade gifts

“Fair trade” means that the person making the product has been paid a fair price for their labor and works in reasonable conditions. Purchasing fair trade gifts effectively supports fair labor standards, social equity, and local development. Clothing, crafts, and coffee and chocolate are all popular fair trade items.

www.serrv.org

Partnering with many artisans, including many refugees, to provide a HUGE searchable selection of ornaments, crafts, musical instruments, etc. Great holiday selection, and very cheap- easy to find things for less than \$5!

store.globalexchange.org

Global Exchange Nice selection of jewelry, gift baskets, and books. Very high social/labor standards, but a little pricier.

www.tenthousandvillages.com

Ten Thousand Villages has physical stores! Check the web for locations. Good holiday selection. Nice ornaments, folk art, and housewares. Favorites include a colorful elephant puzzle for kids and the selection of Rugmark-certified oriental rugs.

www.geponline.org/catalog/gcatalog.html

Also offers crafts. Fairly expensive, with items more like those you see sold in markets in the country. Favorite items include Guatemalan shoulder bags and carved Kenyan salad spoons.

store.yahoo.com/eeretail

Equal Exchange Coffee, one of the original orgs involved in fair-trade coffee now sells tea, spices, and cocoa as well!

www.greenstar.org

Digital products available direct to the Internet consumer from the Greenstar World Gallery include music, paintings and drawings, photographs, video, poetry and stories. In addition, you can purchase caps, mousepads, tshirts, and bags. Download traditional music MP3s and enjoy the site.

www.microenterpriseworks.org/projects/buyme

A listing of entrepreneurs across the country with specialty products and services.

www.americanapparel.net

Offers classic sportswear, made sweatshop free in Los Angeles. Organic cotton clothing available.

www.funedesin.org

The Foundation for Integrated Education and Development (FUNEDSIN) does great community development work in Ecuador, and works to preserve the rainforest. Their website sells their unique *jungle chocolate* (it's crunchy!) and has links to adopt an acre of rainforest or a cocoa tree.

www.nosweatapparel.com

Clothing produced by independent trade union members in the US, Canada, EU and the developing world. Produces (no) sweat suits, athletic wear, and a variety under the NoSweat! Label. Very classic, affordable styles.

www.lucuma.com

Check out these "Peruvian crafts for a better world." Beautiful ornaments, incredible 3-D art pillows, and cute finger puppets. Free shipping with \$50 purchase.

www.peacecraft.org

Great glassware, pottery, and baskets. Good prices.

*While not expressly "fair trade," **Eziba** and **Novica** promise fair prices and provide a market for skilled craftspeople in developing countries.*

www.novica.org

Novica offers a higher-end selection of crafts, gorgeous jewelry and furniture arranged by region; excellent for art collectors, or for house warming gifts. A very nice selection of more contemporary pieces.

www.eziba.com

Also higher-end. Beautiful accessories and handbags. Follow the links to get Frida Kahlo's look, including silver filigree earrings modeled after the artists.

For locations of fair-trade retail stores, see www.fairtradefederation.com/memret.html

environmentally-friendly gifts

Each thing you buy requires materials to make, energy to produce, fuel energy for transportation from the producer to a store, and more energy to bring it home.

If the gift is made of plastic, chemicals were used in its making. If it is paper, trees were cut down. Products made from metals or gems require mining that often disturbs nearby wildlife. And of course, the gasoline and diesel fuels most often used to ship goods contribute to a growing number of problems- including air pollution, climate change and health concerns.

www.gaiam.com

A "lifestyle" company which offers travel packages, interesting articles, and plenty of everyday and gift items. Their search engine allows you to shop by type of recipient, price, or category. Gaiam also manages the Real Goods website (www.realgoods.com), with everything from renewable energy kits and eco cleansing products to hand-woven bags made by a Peruvian women's co-op. Great yoga stuff.

www.greenpagestore.org

THE resource on where to buy the environmentally-friendly version of just about anything. Do a search for anything from appliances to wine to find a local or internet retailer. Children, Fair Trade, Gifts, and Int'l crafts are search options (see some selections in the section below).

www.ecoexpress.com

High end, gourmet gift baskets of luxury products which, for the most part, are more environmentally friendly. Good choices for business gifts. Also check out the "Peoples of the Planet" children's game or "Romantic Dinner for Two" gift basket with organic wine, breadsticks, olive oil, tapenade and chocolates.

www.organicclothes.com

Socks, clothes, and bedding from Maggie's Functional Organics, now produced by Maquilador Mujeres, a sewing cooperative in an impoverished area of Nicaragua. Fun tie-dye socks as well as black and natural basics.

www.organicweddings.com/shop

Although this gift registry is meant for newlyweds, many of the products listed, including dishware and home accessories, are nice gifts anytime!

www.recycledframes.com

Picture frames and mirrors handmade from reclaimed lumber, finished with animal- and earth-friendly stains.

www.patagonia.com

This progressive company offers great sports wear and casual clothes.

www.ecomall.com

Billed as "Earth's Largest Environmental Shopping Center- Your First Stop to Shop for Green Products That are Good for People and the Environment." Huge variety of products, some of which are more "hippy" than truly "green." However, an excellent resource for ideas on everything from furniture to videos.

www.seedsofchange.com

Check out Seeds of Change for your favorite gardener! They sell 100% organic seeds, seedlings, gardening tools, and fresh and frozen food products. Gift options include organic pears, cheesecake, or flowers.

www.eco-artware.com

Eco-Artware.com is "a web-based gallery of stylish, well-made products enabling us to live well, while living lightly on the earth." Interesting artistic jewelry, dishes, furniture and rugs, and business gifts. Many items also have a fair trade or community development component as well. Great reusable cloth gift bags and Zulu baskets made from used telephone wire.

www.wendysgiftbags.com

Wrap your gifts in a charming, reusable bag with one of Wendy's printed giftbags, available in a number of sizes.

www.vivavi.com

At Vivavi.com you'll find the best of contemporary, environmentally conscious shopping: stylish organic cotton clothing, sustainably harvested furniture, and rugged footwear made from an array of recycled materials.

giving gifts through charities or non-profits

While the production of these products may not promote sustainable development, you can support a good cause with your purchase of these gifts.

store.yahoo.com/aipubs

Support human rights with your purchase of Amnesty International merchandise, including CDs, t-shirts, bags, coffee mugs, etc.

www.worldwildlife.org

Shop WWF's website to purchase cell phone cases, t-shirts, calendars and credit cards to support the organization.

www.nrdc.org/joinGive

Apparel and Natural Resources Defense Council memberships.

www.sierraclub.org/store

Beautiful calendars and Sierra Club apparel.

www.care2.com/shopping

Has eco-friendly products from various retailers and has set up a deal with mainstream companies like Amazon.com, the Gap, and L.L Bean to donate 5% of purchases to environmental non-profits, if done through the care2 website.

www.greatergood.com

Purchase from a long list of mainstream retailers like Anne Taylor, Sephora, Red Envelope, Nordstrom, J.Crew and Good Guys, and up to 15% of every purchase automatically goes to a cause you select. Many repeat companies from Care2.com, and similar organizations are donated to, include Nature Conservancy, Mercy Corps, and pediatric AIDS. A great option if greener gifts are not for everyone on your list.

www.igive.com

Similar to GreaterGood, with participation from Barnes and Noble, Toys-R-Us, and The Learning Company.

www.shopforchange.com

Brought to you by Working Assests, donates money to Amnesty International, Greenpeace, and others when you buy from Novica, Eziba, as well as a number of mainstream companies.

www.godslovewedeliver.org/catalog/catalog_index.html

Purchase edibles, travel accessories, holiday items and luxury gifts including Burberry merchandise in support of this popular AIDS charity.

