

Green gifts

Green and ethical Christmas gift ideas by Sarah Husselmann

Looking for Christmas gift ideas? The following will inspire green, ethical and generous giving. Ensure your halo is really glowing by buying online or taking a trip (by foot or public transport, of course) to your local high street.

Price Guide: £ - up to £10, ££ - up to £25, £££ - up to £50, ££££ - over £50

Practical...

Sun Jars are made from a traditional Mason jar with a solar cell on the top and low energy LED lamps inside. The jars make great night lights for the garden or a child's bedroom.

Where: www.thegreenstoreonline.co.uk tel: 0845 002 0396

Cost: ££

Envirosax are a stylish way to say goodbye to plastic bags. Founded in Australia, the Envirosax team uses renewable and recyclable products where possible, and donate a percentage of their sales to charities dedicated to preserving the environment.

Where: Your local Oliver Bonas; www.ebags.co.uk tel: 0800 234 2282 and www.officedog.co.uk tel: 8340 7080

Cost: ££

Solar Powered Chargers are the perfect gift for gadget lovers. The Solio Universal Hybrid Charger has adapters for an iPod and a variety of mobile phones as well as other hand-held devices.

Where: www.thegreenstoreonline.co.uk tel: 0845 002 0396 and www.nigelsecostore.com tel: 0800 288 8970

Cost: ££ - ££££

Wind-up torches (pictured) come in all shapes and sizes and kid's versions are available. Winding for one minute is enough to fully charge and the length of time the torch lasts will vary.

Where: Your local Blacks or Millets.

Cost: £ - ££



Pretty...

Mini bags made from recycled fabric look great and can be used as purses and pencil cases.

Where: www.the-green-apple.co.uk tel: 02476 511056

Cost: ££

Purses (pictured) made from recycled wrappers are pretty and practical. The ethos behind stockist Adili is that both people and the planet should benefit from fashion.

All products tackle at least one of the environmental and social issues involved in making, transporting and selling them.

Where: www.adili.com tel: 01258 837 437

Cost: £££

Waffle T-Shirts made from bamboo, look cute enough to eat and feel as soft as cashmere. Bambino Bamboo has a selection of children's items made from 100% organically grown, panda-friendly bamboo.

Where: www.bambinobamboo.com tel: 7078 4042

Cost: ££

Ethical jewellery and accessories

Where: www.oxfam.org.uk tel: 0300 200 1252, Oxfam Boutique on Shawfield Street off King's Road is worth a special trip and stocks their most recent range of jewellery and other fashion items.

Cost: £ - £££

Provide for others...

Many of us have everything we need and receiving another pair of socks (even if they are made from fair-trade cotton) is a waste of money. Instead of buying your loved ones another item to sit at the bottom of their wardrobes, why not give a gift to someone in need, on their behalf?

Oxfam Unwrapped gift selection includes buying a goat for a family in Mauritania, school dinners for children in Brazil and solar panels for Oxfam projects in Indonesia. Gifts can be purchased online or in store.

Where: www.oxfam.org.uk tel: 0300 200 1252

Cost: £ - ££££

Adopt an animal give support closer to home at Battersea Park Children's Zoo, London Zoo or one of our city farms.



Where: www.batterseaparkzoo.co.uk/adoptions tel: 7924 5826
www.zsl.org/shop/london-zoo-adoptions
tel: 7449 6228

www.deencityfarm.org tel: 8543 5300
www.vauxhallcityfarm.info tel: 7582 4204

Cost: ££ - £££

Playtime...

Puppet Kits (pictured) be it a bear, dog, dinosaur or dragon, are ideal for children aged four and over. Made from recycled cardboard and wood they are also great value for money.

Where: www.fairwindonline.com tel: 8374 6254 or visit their shop in Crouch End, N8.

Cost: £

'Green Crafts for Children' by Emma Hardy includes simple instructions and photographs for 35 step-by-step projects using natural, recycled and found materials. Projects include cork animals, driftwood boats, dried flower fairies and pom-pom caterpillars.

Where: All major bookshops

Cost: ££ (hardback)

Green Science products include a **Windmill Generator** - teach your children about renewable energy, **Enviro-Battery** - learn the science behind power and **Soda Can Robug** - turn a can into a robot; fun, creative and educational!

Where: www.cheekymonkeys.com tel: 01730 821833 or visit their Notting Hill store.

Cost: £

Wooden Toys The Vilac brand has over 80 years of toy making history. Look out for their wonderful ride-on fire engine, great range of musical instruments, colourful puzzles and pull-along animals for toddlers.

Where: www.cheekymonkeys.com tel: 01730 821833 or visit their Notting Hill store

Cost: £ - £££

Enjoy your gift shopping and have a great, guilt-free and green Christmas!

Flapjack Giveaway!

Win a copy of *Green Crafts for Children* by Emma Hardy worth £12.99. Send an email or postcard with the word **GREEN** to Flapjack (see details in red box on page 27).

