



Festive Fashion: This year why not try an alternative to buying new outfits for festive parties, family events and holiday dinners instead create your festive outfits from items you already own or even try swapping with friends. This small change can help to avoid purchases of one-off outfits that end up in a landfill after their short-lived fashion shelf life. Another more climate friendly option is to buy pre loved clothes from charity to shops to websites and apps there's an abundance of choice to help you find the right outfit while also avoiding fast and unsustainable fashion choices. Each year the fashion industry is responsible for emitting 10% of global greenhouse gas emission, this is more than the aviation and maritime shipping combined, and with demand and population increasing each year emissions will continue to rise from the fashion industry, unless we make a change. #councils4climateaction #climatechristmas #climateaction #climateawareness #ecochristmas



Festive Food Without the Waste: During the festive period more food is wasted due to over buying and leftovers being spoiled. Food waste is a big climate issue as the food production process uses up land, natural resources and energy long before it ends up in your brown bin. Food waste emits the green house gas methane as it rots, and it's estimated that roughly 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions is caused by food waste. One simple way to cut down your food waste emissions this festive season is to try to only buy what'll need and use. Writing out a shopping list before you do your grocery shop can be helpful in avoiding over buying, as well as choosing what dishes you'll be cooking over the festive period. Another suggestion is to set up a self-serve system allowing your dinner guests to choose how much or how little of an item they want, this is a great way to avoid those plate food scraps being wasted. You can also [freeze](#) lots of food that you've left over or turn them into new dishes like sandwiches or soups, for more recipe ideas visit stopfoodwaste.ie #councils4climateaction#climatechristmas #climateaction #climateawareness #ecochristmas

Environmentally Friendly Gift Wrapping: Wrapping gifts and making items look fancy is all part of the fun of giving presents. Sadly, sometimes the choice of wrapping means it's not very good for the planet. Most wrapping paper is not made from recycled paper and they contain plastic, toxic dyes, laminates to make them look glossy and glittery foil that makes it difficult to recycle. Generally, if the paper is non-metallic and can be torn by hand it is recyclable. If you need a scissors to cut it, it goes in the black bin. Repak, the packaging recycling agency, report that our packaging waste increases by 25 per cent over Christmas. Each household generates about 44 kilos of packaging waste over the holiday season. While recycling means less waste going to landfill or for incineration, reducing waste produced and reusing is favourable.

Reduce waste by reusing newspapers, paper bags, magazines and comics as wrapping. Add some natural twine/raffia or ribbons and bows from previous gifts. Cardboard or paper packing material that comes in parcels to protect fragile goods can be robust enough to reuse for wrapping delicate items. Sprigs of holly, fir cones, dry leaves and cinnamon sticks make a parcel look very inviting and smelling great, on your next walk why not try and gather some natural festive bits to give your wrapping that special natural touch. Fabric is often coloured or patterned and can be used as very unique and interesting wrapping for gifts. Most of us have material lying around the house that with a bit of imagination can be cut to various sizes and shapes suitable for the task in hand. The recipient of the gift may even be inspired to reuse the material again as wrapping for future occasions.

If you do choose to buy paper, look for wrapping paper that states it is made from recycled material and says that it can be recycled. Watch out for the Forest Stewardship Council FSC stamp and go natural by avoiding dyed paper. Avoid plastic sticky tape by using brown paper tape or tying with natural string. Many shops sell wooden, paper or cardboard tags for gifts that can be reused or recycled. So, put on your creative hat, think outside the box and instead of recycling, reduce and reuse! #councils4climateaction #climatechristmas #climateaction #climateawareness #ecochristmas



Climate Conscious Christmas Commute: When traveling this holiday season visiting friends and family try to travel climate smart. Try carpooling with others heading to the same dinner or party, the more people in the one car the lower the carbon footprint of each person and the fewer cars on the road the less greenhouse gas emissions. If it's possible to travel using public transport this is the best climate conscious mode of transport. If you are visiting people who live within your area why not choose an active travel mode of transport. Walking or cycling to and/or from your dinner will help you to digest the yummy festive feast and treats that you've eaten while also benefiting the environment. #councils4climateaction #climatechristmas #climateaction #climateawareness #ecochristmas

How to be Energy Smart This Christmas: 30% of all batteries are purchased in the run up to Christmas and 20 million waste batteries are generated in Irish households on Christmas Day. This Christmas why not invest in rechargeable batteries that you can keep reusing for many Christmases to come. Rechargeable batteries have a much greater lifespan than single use, meaning you'll save money in the long run. When disposing of any batteries, rechargeable and single use, it's important that you drop them off at the appropriate recycling centre and help to prevent them being dumped in landfills. When decorating your houses and gardens for Christmas this year try to use LED lightbulbs instead of incandescent ones. Not only are they much more energy efficient with 75% less electricity used but they also have a much greater lifespan, saving you money in the long run and avoiding unnecessary energy consumption. #councils4climateaction #climatechristmas #climateaction #climateawareness #ecochristmas

