Sustainable Gift Giving Tips

1. Opt for experiences instead of physical gifts
   Things aren’t the only way to show your family how much they mean to you, a great experience with you or someone else can be far more valuable than a new hat.

2. Donate to a charity
   Having a hard time coming up with ideas of what to give someone, sometimes the best gift is helping others in need. There are a number of respected third party raters of charities based on their distribution of funds and commitment to their mission.

3. Memberships are great, especially for families
   Give the gift that keeps on giving all year long. Memberships to zoos and museums can be great for families with kids. Other memberships, like for a gym, online newspaper, CSA, arboretums/ gardens or other local experances can be a fun gift for anyone on your Christmas list.

4. Use plugins to support causes you care about when shopping online
   There are a plugins that automatically donate money to a charity of your choice when you shop online with no cost to you.

5. Shop Local
   Even if you missed Small Business Saturday, there is still plenty of time left to shop local. Take a stroll down your favorite downtown shopping district and support a local business or two. Money spent at a local business adds more to the local economy than shopping at a large national chain.

Source: Sustainable Connections
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6. Shop fair trade
Shops and products that have fair trade certification have been made by putting people and planet first. Fair trade products can be found online and in stores.

7. Look for upcycled or recycled gifts
Online stores like ThredUp, and physical stores such as Greene Street are a great option for high quality used clothing. Companies like Patagonia support the reuse of their items through their Worn Wear program.

8. DIY Gifts
DIY can be a great way to cut down on cost and add a personal touch to your gift giving. There are so many ideas online, from soap and candles to candy and pickling.

9. Waste reducing gifts
Gifts like reusable mugs, lunch containers, bags, etc. can be a fun gift that delights the receiver and helps reduce waste. Sites like Reuse It and Mighty Nest have a lot of great waste reduction ideas and products.

10. Energy saving gifts
The gift that keeps on giving. Though smart thermostats and power strips may not seem like exciting gifts they can sometimes be just what your loved one needs.