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This week on Ireland’s Classic Hits Radio we’ve been looking towards having a greener Christmas this year.

**Tackling Waste at Christmas:**

The holiday season is often thought of as a time of giving, joy, and celebration. However, it is also a time known for generating an enormous amount of waste. From gift wrapping to food waste, this season can put a significant strain on the environment. But, it doesn’t have to be that way. There are plenty of things we can do to tackle holiday waste and have a more sustainable December.

**1. Shop Smart:**

Before starting your holiday shopping, take a moment to think about what you plan to buy. Make a list and prioritize buying eco-friendly, locally sourced, and sustainable products. Consider supporting small businesses, buying handmade or secondhand items, and choosing items with minimal packaging.

**2. Get Creative with Gift Wrapping:**

Instead of using traditional, store-bought gift wrapping, embrace your creative side. Consider using reusable bags, scarves, or fabric for wrapping gifts. You can also reuse old newspapers, magazines, or even paper shopping bags for a unique and eco-friendly gift wrapping option.

**3. Reduce Food Waste:**

[Food waste](https://greyhound.ie/what-to-do-with-my-food-waste/) is a significant contributor to holiday waste, so it’s essential to reduce it as much as possible. Plan meals carefully, buy only what you need, and use leftovers creatively. Encourage your guests to take home leftover food to avoid food waste.

**4. Embrace Sustainable Decorations:**

Holiday decorations are an essential part of creating the festive spirit. However, many decorations are made of plastic and are designed to last for only one season. Instead, opt for sustainable decorations made from natural materials like wood, pine cones, and dried flowers.

**5. Give the Gift of Experiences:**

Instead of giving tangible gifts that might end up in the landfill, consider giving the gift of experiences. Tickets to a show, a cooking or art class, or a wine tasting tour can be an excellent alternative to traditional gifts.

**For more information:**

[www.mywaste.ie/my-christmas-waste/](http://www.mywaste.ie/my-christmas-waste/)

[www.repak.ie/news-room/christmas-ireland-produce-97000-tonnes-of-packaging-waste/](http://www.repak.ie/news-room/christmas-ireland-produce-97000-tonnes-of-packaging-waste/)

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