

**Find the perfect holiday gift for someone you love,
stop vampire power, save energy, and try some green ideas for the season (or anytime)**

Jacqueline Royce, PhD

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For something different this year, Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet. NABB's Green Initiatives Committee suggests 6 Eco-tips for the season (or anytime).

1. Give the gift that keeps on giving: Treat your home to a no-cost, no-obligation Energy Audit. You will save big dollars on energy bills over the years and make Mother Earth happy. Homeowners and tenants can call MassSave/Next Step Living (866-867-8729) to schedule a free audit and learn about rebates, loans, and incentives (www.renewboston.org, MassSave.org, or nextstepliving.com).
2. A gift idea that saves money and energy: Buy a Smart Power Strip to stop the wasted "vampire power" your appliances and electronics use when they are in stand-by mode or even turned off. Sold by Mass Save (www.MassSave.org) at discounted cost of about \$15, the phantom power surge protector saves energy consumption.
3. Nonprofit ideas for kids: "Adopt" an endangered animal from World Wildlife Fund and your child will receive a stuffed animal (www.worldwildlife.org) or donate a real goat or some chickens to a family in another country from Heifer Project International (www.heifer.org). Remember gifts that "reduce, reuse, recycle." Or give the gift of time with family and friends throughout the year.
4. Plan a Sierra Club family eco-tourism trip or a vacation that provides service such as habitat restoration in the desert, the seashore, the mountains, an inner city (www.sierraclub.org) or volunteer in a disaster area served by Habitat for Humanity (www.habitat.org).
5. Take green to a different level by bringing green living values to your dog or cat care by using organic pet food or choosing better non-clay cat litter. Green America Magazine lists many other ways to celebrate the season (www.greenamerica.org).
6. Some families circulate a "favorite charity gift exchange" where each member lists their special organizations and other members make donations as they wish. Or volunteer together at some fabulous Boston-area organization such as Gaining Ground Farm at Thoreau's birthplace in nearby Concord, which grows organic produce for hunger relief in the region (www.gainingground.org).