

RESPONSIBLE GIVING

As the holidays approach, add reduce, reuse and recycle to your shopping list.

BY TERESA KENNEY

THE HOLIDAYS WILL be here before you know it—and with them the time to show appreciation for clients, employees, friends and family members with a memorable gift. As you begin thinking about what special items to put on your shopping list, remember everyone appreciates the gift of green—and we're not talking about the Benjamins. Show your environmental and social consciousness with these top picks for sustainable gift giving.

Say it with flowers

A rose by any other name would smell sweeter if it was grown without pesticides. Chemicals used to treat flowers leak into groundwater and soil and eventually become part of the food chain. Instead, choose to send organic, pesticide-free flowers. To give an organic bouquet to your favorite client, visit your local Farmer's Markets or check out organicbouquet.com and organicflowers.com in the U.S. and sierraflowerfinder.com, veriflora.com, and savoirfleur.com in Canada.



It's in the bag

Made from recycled truck and tractor inner tubes, **Passchal™** handbags, briefcases and DVD and iPod cases are custom made-to-order with faux leather or vegetable-tanned and chrome-free leather. Offering couture with a conscience, the company designs have graced the swag bags of the Billboard Music Awards, Olympus Fashion Week and the *Today* show. Because the bags are custom made, leave plenty of time for delivery. Shop online at passchal.com.

Gifts with good taste

Voted best store for natural wine by *Wine and Spirit*, **Appellation Wine and Spirits**, located in New York City, sells organic wine. Unlike conventional wines, organic wines use no synthetic herbicides, pesticides or fertilizers. You can order online at appellationnyc.com



Featured in the *New York Times*, **Ithaca Fine Chocolates' Art Bars** are 100 percent organic and Fair Trade certified. And if that isn't enough to motivate your sweet tooth, a minimum of 10 percent of the profits of Art Bar sales are donated to The Community School for Music & Arts in Ithaca, New York and the International Child Art Foundation in Washington, D.C. To order online or find a store near you, visit ithacafinechocolates.com.

STOCKING STUFFERS

The reusable bag

Each year an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion single-use plastic bags are consumed worldwide. And it's estimated that nearly 12 million barrels of oil are required to make the 100 billion plastic shopping bags used in the U.S. alone. This year, stuff stockings with bags to stuff things in. The **ChicoBag™** folds up into itself so it can easily slip into purses or briefcases and even has a nifty clip to attach it to a belt or backpack. To truly make an impression, custom printing is available for your company's logo. And best of all, when the bags wear out, ChicoBag will recycle them for you. To order, visit chicobag.com.



Eco-wallets

Based in Portland, Ore., **db clay** creates unique wallets and card holders that are essentially pocket art. The company's newest collection of wallets, Version 3.1, is made of a custom eco-friendly textile they call Tope. Vegan and animal-free, the material is durable, temperature resistant, water resistant and made from non-toxic raw materials that decompose when buried. Plus, you can do good and look good doing it—these wallets don't skimp on style. Choose your favorites at dbclay.com.

Solar charger

Ultra compact, tough and powerful, the **Powermonkey-eXplorer** is ready for your next on-the-road adventure. With the so-called solar-slave, the Powermonkey-eXplorer kit allows users to charge their favorite electronics wherever, whenever they need to. It's compatible with the majority of mobile phones, PDAs, MP3 players, digital cameras and handheld games. To order, visit powertraveller.co.uk.



THE GIFT OF EXPERIENCE

Rather than give any gift at all, consider giving experiences like movie passes, day spa gift certificates, concert tickets or restaurant gift certificates. For the truly unforgettable, check out excitations.com for U.S. adventures and perfectday.ca for Canadian adventures. Depending on where you live, you can give the gift of zero gravity flight, a trip to a rock and roll fantasy camp (real rock stars included), a day on the slopes with an Olympic silver medalist and World Champion downhill skier, or an in-home live classical concert by professional orchestra musicians.



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