The holidays can be a frenzied time as we all look for just the right gift for the special people in our lives. This year consider purchasing a few locally made and/or sustainable gifts. Many retailers are offering unique products made from recycled and sustainable materials.

According to Independent We Stand, small businesses account for 75% of all new jobs. When a person spends just $100.00 locally $68.00 stays in the community whereas if you spend it at a local chain the amount drops to $43.00. Shopping locally is not only good for the locally economy it is good for the environment.


LOCAL

**Bottlehood Glasswear** is made locally from recycled bottles. You can find Bottlehood at the Little Italy Mercato Saturdays from 9am-1:30 pm and the Hillcrest Farmers Market on Sundays from 9am – 2 pm and you can also purchase online. [http://www.bottlehood.com/](http://www.bottlehood.com/)

**Farmers Markets:** Many farmers markets have crafts and homemade items for sale. Here is a link to the various locations throughout the area:


**San Diego Public Market** has opened and currently operates two farmer’s markets on Wednesdays and Sundays from 9:00-2:00 at 1735 National Avenue. Similar to Pikes Market in Seattle, the Public Market will have stalls that are rented year around and will be open 6 days a week. The two organizers, Cat White and Dale Steele, plan to have an educational component of the market, where they will have health and cooking demos. Once open, the market will have food, crafts and maybe even a microbrewery. The plan is to open six days a week during the Spring, 2013.


**Summers Past Farms**: Herb garden, gift shop, nursery and classes. Closed Monday and Tuesdays.  

**LOCAL MEMBERSHIP GIFTS!!!**

What about giving a membership to one of the beautiful museums or gardens we have in the area? Just to get you thinking, here are a few we came up with.

- **Balboa Park gift pass**  
  [http://www.balboapark.org/parkpass/holiday](http://www.balboapark.org/parkpass/holiday)

- **Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park**  
  [http://www.niwa.org/memberships](http://www.niwa.org/memberships)

- **San Diego Botanical Garden**  
  [http://www.sdbgarden.org/membership.htm](http://www.sdbgarden.org/membership.htm)

- The **Water Conservation Garden** located at Cuyamaca College has an online membership form.  
  [http://www.thegarden.org/development/membership.html](http://www.thegarden.org/development/membership.html)

Join a **CSA!! Community Supported Agriculture!**  

- Be Wise Ranch  
- Suzie’s Farms  

**ON-LINE STORES FOR FUN GIFTS**

Whenever in doubt you can always check this guide to find out the social and environmental ratings of each brand or company:  

A recommended good read to learn about where your clothing comes from and the people who make them would be “Where Am I Wearing” by Kelsey Timmerman who also created this resourceful site:  

**Bag It**: merchandise inspired by the documentary to use a little less plastic in your life  

**Earthlover**: (clothing, home, Fairtrade)  
[www.earthlovershopping.com/](http://www.earthlovershopping.com/)  

**Ecoist**: sells a variety of things  
[www.ecoist.com](http://www.ecoist.com)

**Etsy**: the world’s handmade market place. For neat one of a kind gifts. Search on recycled, upcycled and repurposed to come up with pages of fun gifts.  

**Fair Indigo**: clothing and gifts some made in the USA, some fair trade.  

**Gaiam**: clothing, home and garden, a variety of things  
[http://www.gaiam.com](http://www.gaiam.com)

**Great Green Goods**: everything featured on this blog is from recycled materials.  
[www.greatgreengoods.com](http://www.greatgreengoods.com)

**Grove**: eco-conscious bamboo and wool iphone & ipod cases made in Oregon  
Hazlenut Kids: children’s clothes, toys and games
http://www.hazelnutkids.com/

Klean Kanteen: http://www.kleankanteen.com/

Mighty Nest: for an eco-friendly & non-toxic home
http://mightynest.com/

NaturalKidz: children’s clothing store, many of the clothes are made from recycled and/or sustainable products.
http://www.naturalkidz.com/

Patagonia: environmentally conscious clothing
http://www.patagonia.com/us/environmentalism

Prana: clothing store http://www.prana.com

Serrv: to enrich and inspire, Fairtrade, handmade, nonprofit http://www.serrv.org/

Sustain U is a clothing company focused on changing the way clothes are made to improve the environment, reinvigorate America’s manufacturing sector, and educate the world about how clothing can positively impact people’s lives. They create 100% recycled apparel that’s made in the USA. http://www.sustainuclothing.com/

Ten Thousand Villages: A fair trade store with a variety of clothes and gift ideas.
http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/

Uncommon Goods: www.uncommongoods.com/

**FOR THE ANIMAL AND BEE LOVERS!**
Many of these non-profits survive on donations and need help feeding and caring for animals that they rescue throughout the year. If you have an animal lover on your list, this might be one gift idea that they will enjoy.

Animal Place: located in the Sierra Nevada foothills, this organization rescues farm animals. For a mere $25.00 donation, you can become a virtual foster parent and feed two goats for a week. www.animalplace.org

At Farm Sanctuary you can donate money to adopt an animal for a year.
http://www.farmsanctuary.org/giving/adopt-a-farm-animal/

Or for a one time donation of $30.00 you can rescue a turkey. And for a donation of $210.00 you can rescue the entire flock! Don’t worry they don’t send the turkeys to you in a box, once they receive your money, they send you pictures and fun facts about the birds.
http://www.farmsanctuary.org/giving/adopt-a-turkey/

Muttville Senior Dog Rescue – as the name implies, this organization rescues older dogs that get overlooked at the shelters for the younger pups. A $65.00 donation provides care for one dog for an entire month.
www.muttville.org
Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary: Located in Virginia this farm raises money to educate people about the importance of honey bees. They recently purchased the land they were leasing and now hope to raise funds to build a building on the property for classes and where the interns can stay who tend to the bees and the farm. [http://www.spikenardfarm.org/](http://www.spikenardfarm.org/)

Gentle Barn Farm Sanctuary: To rescue, rehabilitate and give sanctuary to abused animals. Through the interaction with our animals people learn reverence for all life. Adopt an animal for life! [http://www.gentlebarn.org/](http://www.gentlebarn.org/)

**SOME OTHER FUN IDEAS**

EcoSisters Recycled Wool Dryer Balls – instead of using PVC dryer balls these are made in Minnesota out of recycled wool. [http://ecosisters.net/recycled-wool-dryer-balls](http://ecosisters.net/recycled-wool-dryer-balls)

Green Field Paper Company: Handmade paper crafted in San Diego. They also have hemp paper, junk mail paper, garlic paper and Grow-A-Note greeting cards and recycled wrapping paper. This company offsets its electricity use by purchasing wind energy credits. [http://www.greenfieldpaper.com/index.cfm](http://www.greenfieldpaper.com/index.cfm)

**Kill-a-watt electricity usage monitor:** This device lets a person monitor their home energy usage by seeing how much electricity appliances and other things in your home and garage use. Also available is the Kill-a-watt power strip. Available at most home improvement stores and on Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/s/?ie=UTF8&keywords=kill+a+watt&tag=googhydr20&index=aps&hvadid=5317097247&ref=pd_sl_975f4fm7s1_e](http://www.amazon.com/s/?ie=UTF8&keywords=kill+a+watt&tag=googhydr20&index=aps&hvadid=5317097247&ref=pd_sl_975f4fm7s1_e)

**Lunch Skins:** Believe it or not, three women have come up for a solution for plastic bags. Lunch skins are made in the U.S.A. They can be purchased online or click on the map to see what stores sell them in San Diego. [http://www.lunchskins.com/](http://www.lunchskins.com/)

The National Wildlife Federation has an online store with some organic t-shirts, and other neat gifts, your purchases help support their wildlife programs. [http://www.shopnwf.org/index.jsp?&sSource=94159&kw](http://www.shopnwf.org/index.jsp?&sSource=94159&kw)

For the handy-person on your list, how about purchasing a **programmable thermostat** for them? These are available at most home improvement stores. According to the EPA -- the average family would save approximately $180.00 per year by installing a programmable thermostat in their home. [http://www.amazon.com/s/?ie=UTF8&keywords=kill+a+watt&tag=googhydr-20&index=aps&hvadid=5317097247&ref=pd_sl_975f4fm7s1_e](http://www.amazon.com/s/?ie=UTF8&keywords=kill+a+watt&tag=googhydr-20&index=aps&hvadid=5317097247&ref=pd_sl_975f4fm7s1_e)

**Soda Stream:** Do you know someone who enjoys sparking water and carbonated drinks? With the Soda Stream you can make your own! And the carbonated container can be exchanged. Just think, no more empty bottles. [http://www.sodastreamusa.com/](http://www.sodastreamusa.com/)
To-Go Ware: This company sells utensils set made out of bamboo and stainless steel food containers. Go to their website and enter you zip code to find a retail store that carries their products close to home. http://www.to-goware.com/retailers/index.php

SKOY cloths: can be used for cleaning. Made of cotton and wood-based cellulose pulp they can be reused. Use SKOY instead of paper towels for all your cleaning needs. http://www.skoycloth.com/index_files/products.htm


Terracycle: This is the company that we send all of our defunct pens and markers to. Check out the fun items that they have made from recycled products including the defunct pens and markers that we have sent to them. http://www.terracycle.net/en-US/products.html?locale=en-US

Toms Shoes: For every pair of Tom’s shoes that is sold, another pair of shoes is given away to a child who does not have any. So buy shoes and feel good, not just because you have new shoes, but because in the process of buying one pair, you are donating a pair to someone in need. Now just think of the potential if other companies did this, even if they did it for just one month a year. http://www.toms.com/our-movement?icid=us-home-072011_19

REUSABLE and PREVIOUSLY LOVED

Vintage!!!! http://www.yelp.com/c/san-diego/vintage

IDEAS FOR WRAPPING GIFTS GREEN
Remember re-use and recycle!
Earth911 has some creative ideas for wrapping gifts, think fabric and old calendar pages.
History of wrapping paper:

According to Eco-Chick if every family wrapped just three gifts with re-used materials we would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields!!! That is huge, so see if you can find fun ways to wrap just three presents this holiday season. http://eco-chick.com/2006/11/599/eco-wrapping/

Furoshiki is Japanese wrapping cloth and can be made from all types of fabrics including cotton, rayon and silk. See some ways to wrap various gifts under the technique tab on this site: http://furoshiki.com/
There are also some youtube videos on wrapping
techniques.  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Furoshiki

Cleaning up after the celebration!  

Recycle your tree!  

Eco-trees!  
http://www.gogreenstreet.com/san-diego-christmas-tree/

DIY Holiday and Gift Events

Peace Bazaar: Support local social justice organizations with unique and socially conscious items that make great gifts.  
December 8, 2012 10-2:00 @ Mid-City Gym  4302 Landis St.  
San Diego 92105  Entrance on 43rd (one way street going South)  
http://peacebazaar.prcsd.org/Home.html

Day without a Bag: December 20, 2012  
If you do any shopping today, please bring your reusable bags for your purchases. Various stores in the community are giving out free reusable bags to customers. See the website to find out what stores are participating.  
http://www.nobagdaysd.org/index.html

Really Really Free Market: Everything is free!  
http://sdrrfm.blogspot.com/

December Nights at Balboa Park  
http://www.balboapark.org/decemernights/  
December 7 5:00-10:00 p.m. and December 8th noon-10:00 p.m.