



green
rewards

for
greener
living

Christmas Product Release – Unusual Gift Ideas for Everyone

Dec 2010

No one wants to end up getting everyone boring presents but you don't want to waste your money buying pointless novelty gifts either. Green Rewards, the online ethical retail company, has handpicked a number of gift ideas from their independently approved ethical range. With unusual gift ideas for everyone your festive shopping trip will be a breeze.

For Him

Vortex Solar Shed Light



This is a great multi use solar garden lighting system which can illuminate your summer evenings' entertainments or help you see your winter project.

The vortex solar shed and parasol light can be attached to your garden parasol for easy table illumination or inside your shed using the easy to install clip. There are zero operating costs so you'll save a packet on garden lighting and the different lighting settings mean you can create different moods to suit any occasion.

Because the lighting system isn't powered from the mains it means you don't need to run wires out into the garden and can easily set up the lights yourself. This system works all year round because the solar system has been developed with the British winter weather conditions in mind.

Cost £29.99

Ethletic Sneakers



These ethical Converse Style street shoe are a great gift idea for the stylish men in your life. These shoes look just like any other high street fashion shoe but they are ethically and environmentally produced. This is a great gift which highlights the message that living ethically doesn't have to mean compromising quality or style.

All the materials used in the production of these sneakers are Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certified and all shoes carry the FSC stamp on the rubber soles. The rubber is also traded fairly with a premium being paid on each kilo purchased to go towards rubber tapper welfare schemes.

The shoes are produced in Pakistan where a fair trade premium per pair pays for health and welfare schemes for the workers.

Cost £36

For Her



Linden Leaves

Linden Leaves is an award winning New Zealand based company founded in 1995 which produces several great personal care product ranges. Our favourite is the Aromatherapy Range which includes four unique and beautiful aromas to offer you a moment of calm before (or after) your busy day.

Linden Leaves uses pure and natural ingredients produced with a sense of guardianship for the New Zealand environment. All their packaging is recycled and they refuse to test any of their amazing products on animals.

Cost £52

EO Products



Because there are so many organic or fair trade personal care ranges on the market now you've got to be something special to stand out and luckily EO is one such range. EO is a care range based on the highest quality essential oils (hence the name) steam distilled in the traditional way direct from flowers, bark, leaves and wood.

This high quality essential oil is the key to their whole range and the dedicated family team ensure that all the oils used in their products are up to their exacting standards. Paraben and artificial ingredient free this range is full of natural cleaning agents that foam easily and keep you fresh and clean.

Cost £28



BroadWalk Shopper

This great boardwalk shopper from British designer Tamara Fogle is a great example of ethical style. Introducing people to quality products which look as good as, if not better than, top price mass produced items without the environmental impact. Made from antique Hungarian grain sacks the styling of these great bags is simple and classic with a nod to modern tastes without pandering to fashion trends.

When we say antique we mean antique, the sacks were all produced between 1910 and 1930 so you're getting a piece of history with the marks you'd expect from a long life. The sacks come with a distinctive stripe of red, blue or, more rarely, red/white and blue/white. This stripe which is often accompanied by sets of initials ties the grain sacks to specific regions and weavers so you know you're getting a real piece of history. The leather details are recycled Italian bridles treated with an aniline finish which is designed to enhance the softness of the leather but more importantly the process uses fewer chemicals than other finishing techniques.

Tamara Fogle is proud of her British heritage and insists that all her bags are produced in the UK by skilled workers.

Cost £132.25

For the Kids



Eco Playhouse

The earlier you are introduced to greener living practices the more likely you are to carry those practices and principles into later life. That being the case this great eco playhouse is a fantastic gift idea for younger children. It introduces toddlers and younger children to a sustainable house with all the eco mod cons including solar panels, wind turbines, a bike instead of a car and, of course, recycling bins.

As well as being a great educational tool this eco playhouse is also a great toy with sturdy and safe construction and all the highest quality materials used. I know it doesn't beep or light up but this is a great way to get your little ones using their imaginations and inventing their own games.

The manufacturers are deeply committed to sustainable practices and only use rubberwood trees over 25 years of age which are no longer able to produce latex. They even make sure all their waste products like sawdust and chippings are used to ensure nothing is wasted.

Cost £89.99



POWERplus Solar Powered 6-in-1 Toys

Christmas is all about the kids and we love seeing youngsters with a love for the environment and alternate technologies so this toy set is a perfect Christmas gift. The Chameleon 6-in-1 solar powered toy is great value as there are 6 completely unique toys which can be built from the pieces supplied. Each toy is powered by attaching it to the solar panel to show children how versatile solar power can be.

Each set comes with a full set of instructions so you and your children can spend hours building all 6 of these fun and educational toys. We know that the earlier children thinking about how they affect the environment the more likely they are to grow up into a green aware adult which is great for everyone.

Suitable for 10+ children with small parts presenting a choking hazard for children under 3. The toys can also be powered by a 50watt halogen light bulb if your children are playing inside.

Cost £14.99

Gadgets



EnviroPlug

This simple little idea is a great example small changes making huge differences. We all try not to but we do leave our phone chargers plugged into the wall because it is just easier. Enter the EnviroPlug, once your phone is full this clever little plug switches off the power to the charger easing your conscience and saving you electricity.

Leaving your charger plugged in for 16 hours normally will use 24watts, adding the EnviroPlug reduces that to 0.8watts. Small changes, big difference.

Cost £9.99



Efergy Monitor

Seeing where their households uses the most energy makes people more aware of how they use energy and where they can make cuts. While they don't actually save you energy themselves a report from the government estimated that houses with an energy monitor installed made energy savings of between 5-15% (£25-£75 off a £500 annual bill) in the first year.

This is a great little system which is easy to install and use with an immediate update system so you can see instantly how changes you make affect your energy usage. The units used are the same as those on your electricity bill (kilowatt-hours) so you can input the amount your company charges you to see your energy usage in monetary units (scary!).

The history function is also a great feature as it allows you to see how your energy usage changes over days, weeks and months.

Cost £49.99



EcoKettle

We all try to judge the right amount of water we need to boil and usually end up boiling too much and wasting energy or ending up with just slightly too little meaning you have to boil the kettle all over again. The Eco Kettle makes it easy to measure out only the amount of water you need every time.

The two chamber design means you can fill the top chamber to capacity then use the knob on top to measure out the number of cups you'll need (up to 8) as and when they need boiling. You actually save time as you can leave the kettle full meaning you need to refill it less. Boiling only the water you need saves you 31% of the energy your kettle usually uses which, for a 3kW kettle, is 50 light bulbs worth.

Cost £39.99

The Garden



Composphere

Made from 100% recycled plastics the Composphere is designed to accelerate the composting process using traditional tumbling techniques in an innovative way. The unique design not only makes producing compost faster it also looks lovely so you won't want to hide your new Composphere away.

The rolling design is practical as well as fun because it means you can roll your composter to where you need it in the garden dispensing with the need for wheel barrows to transport your clippings or compost.

Using household and garden waste to produce your own compost is a great way to reduce your dependence on traditional peat based composts. The use of peat in mass produced composts is beginning to have a detrimental effect on the UK's peat bogs where peat production cannot match the rate of removal.

Cost £75



Grow It Kits

These kits are a great way to grow some of the world's most interesting plants from seeds. The kits come with everything you need to start and information booklet with simple how to steps and you some great information about the plants themselves. Great for getting younger children interested in gardening.

The pots will remain sturdy for up to a year so can be kept simply on windowsills if you don't have access to a garden. Even if you have to replant you don't need to remove your plant from the 100% biodegradable

pots.

Coir based expandable compost discs are a great way of replacing traditional peat based composts as coir has all the water retention properties of peat without the same environmental impacts. Peat bogs in the UK are at an all time low so any move away from traditional composts is ok by us.

Cost £10.95

Notes for the Editors

Green Rewards is a green and ethical online shop and rewards scheme that provides people with an easy and engaging way to lead a greener lifestyle and play their part in tackling climate change. The venture was set up by Graham Simmonds, former Chief Executive of the environmental charity Trees for Cities and Richard Hammond, Entrepreneur, whilst the radio and television personality, Neil Fox (who currently presents Magic 105.4 FM's Breakfast Show) is involved as a non-executive director.

At www.greenrewards.co.uk people can visit Our Green Shop where we have brought together over 1800 eco products, gifts and experiences offering something for everyone – from bird feeders for the garden, energy saving devices for the house, toys for the kids, experiences, green charity gifts and much, much more! Our points can only be spent in Our Green Shop where everything has been rigorously vetted by an independent Sustainability Advisory Panel that includes some of the UK's leading figures covering carbon footprinting, ethical fashion, recycling and fair trade.

For more information, please call Megan Butler on 0207 326 5055 or email her at megan.butler@greenrewards.co.uk