



Boy, Orson, you sure are all decked out in your finest for this New Year's Eve.

*Yep, this will be a very special one – it's the start of a brand new decade.*

What do you hope for in the coming new year?

*I hope everyone in our Wells community will learn what they need to do to become more sustainable themselves in order that, collectively, we can keep the college moving ahead to become more sustainable.*

## Tips for a more sustainable holiday season

### Make your own wrapping paper or do without

Much mass-produced wrapping paper is *not recyclable* because of the shiny coatings, foils and colors, so it ends up in the trash. Get creative! Wrap presents with old maps, the comics section of a newspaper, or children's artwork. Or use a scarf, attractive dish towel, bandana, or some other useful cloth item to wrap presents.



### Decorate your house and holiday tree with LEDs



LED lights use 90% less energy than conventional holiday lights, and can save on holiday season energy bills. LEDs release little heat, so they don't dry out your tree as fast, and they last for thousands of hours.

Consider giving eco-friendly gifts, such as items made with recycled content, or that are locally produced, organic, and/or Fair Trade certified. Shop at farmers' markets, craft fairs, and locally-owned stores. Give gifts that encourage others to use less stuff, like books on repurposing items, or a re-usable carry-out container. Purchase gifts that don't need batteries, are long-lasting, or that can be reused and later recycled.



Arrive curious \*\* Graduate prepared.

Make some **New Year's Resolutions** to be more sustainable in Spring 2020 (and beyond!):

★ If you don't already have one, pick up a new reusable beverage container over the break to use for hot and/or cold beverages



★ Skip purchasing single-use bottled water – use the water bottle fill stations on campus.

★ Check out the reuse areas on campus first before purchasing new. The **Bargain Basement** (ground floor of Main building) may have housewares, room furnishings, craft items, etc. The **RUMPUS Room** (Macmillan 111A) may have still usable school and office supplies.



★ Simplify your life. Donate items you no longer need or want **to** the **Bargain Basement** or **RUMPUS Room** for others to use. You can always drop things off as these free reuse spaces are open 24/7.



★ Consider sharing your ride if you are driving to town for shopping errands. Sign up to use the **Finger Lakes Rideshare** app to help find rides with others or to fill those empty seats in your car.

<https://www.zimride.com/FLXRideshare>

★ Be thoughtful in your usage of campus resources (electricity, water, food) – use what you need but don't WASTE them.

"Installment" is a double play on words: we place them inside bathroom cubicles ("in stalls") and the content changes monthly ("in installments").

Get it? Got It? Good!

Before heading home for the loooong winter break, please do all the following in your room or office:



- Turn off and unplug **ALL** energy-using appliances and equipment
- Empty, defrost, and unplug your refrigerator
- Remove all perishable food items from the room. (Think about donating still-usable food items to the Food Pantry, Main Building Room 104).
- Close and secure windows
- Leave curtains and/or shades closed
- Empty trash and recyclables into the proper waste separation receptacles in your building
- Switch off all light(s).

If you have collected burned-out light bulbs, dead batteries, or disposable plastic shopping bags this semester, bring them over to the Sustainability Center classroom (Zabriskie 212) and put them in the labeled collection boxes. We will dispose of them properly over break.



Did we *getcha*? Did we spot you carrying and using your reusable beverage container? If so, don't forget to redeem your Block 2 **GOTCHA** card at the GRIND Café by December 13. New **GOTCHA** cards will be issued for Spring semester Block 1.

Questions about more sustainable actions?  
email: [sustainability@wells.edu](mailto:sustainability@wells.edu)