

Seven Arrows has always been about the "Do it yourself" Life. Here are some ideas from Christmases past:

Make your own...lots of things! <http://www.care2.com/greenliving/25-great-consumer-less-gift-ideas.html>

Give a donation to a favorite organization of the recipient. (As a volunteer in several animal rescue groups I really like this idea. I have discovered that, however well-meaning a thought, it doesn't really feel like a gift unless it's directed at a cause your recipient is interested in)

Adopt a dog or kitty from a local animal shelter. The best gift Michel and I ever gave each other was the adoption of our beloved pitbull, Nicky. Nicky has lived with us nine Christmases and we can't imagine life without him. REMEMBER, offering a forever home to a furry being is a gift you give yourself. They are members of your family and are not disposable. Here are more no-cost/low cost ideas I have borrowed from a number of websites:

If you are skilled in a particular area, offer a lesson or class.

Fill an old trunk or suitcase with fun clothing, hats and gaudy jewelry for the kids in your life to play dress-up.

Videotape and interview your elderly parents about childhood memories, how they met, etc. and give to siblings or children.

For us, environment and peace issues are interrelated, inseparable even. Some gift purchases help the environment and peace: Give people CFL bulbs to save energy. Give Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate made in people-friendly and earth-friendly ways. Buy recycled paper etc.

Recycle a favorite gardening book. Wrap in recycled Sunday comics newspaper. Include a pack of seeds. Recycle a favorite cookbook. Include a goodie prepared from one of its recipes. Recycle any favorite book with a personalized note suggesting "why I think you'll like this book."+

Second hand tea cups and tea pots are very cool!
(I've found some very nice collector pieces at the local second hand stores.

One turned out to be worth \$30. I paid \$1.99.) Include a muslin bag full of a nice black or herbal tea.

If you're a gardener you've probably got a bunch of old clay pots in the garage. Into garden art? Check out

http://familycrafts.about.com/od/claypotcrafts/Clay_Pot_Crafts.htm

Make a basket of green, environmentally friendly products. Include some of the following or visit here for more ideas.

<http://greenlivingideas.com/housecleaning/natural-cleaning-recipes.html#Recipes>