

Go **Green** This Halloween

SAVE MONEY AND AVOID WASTE THIS HALLOWEEN

1. Use LED lights.

L.E.D. Halloween lights burn brighter, cooler, longer and use 90% less energy than conventional incandescent holiday lights.



Decorations made with LED lights will last year-after-year and they can be bought at the local halloween store, online websites or places like Home Depot.

2. Buy from the local farmers' market and decorate with nature.

Pumpkins, apples, leaves, branches, hay bales, gourds, mums, and dried flowers can be used for decorating and are biodegradable. Produce bought at farmers' markets will not only taste better and cost less but save energy. In the U.S., the average grocery store's produce travels nearly 1,500 miles between the farm where it was grown and your refrigerator. This wastes transportation fuels, contributes to global warming and results in food that's just not as fresh.



3. Make your own Halloween costume.

For great ideas go to do-it-yourself sites online or your local arts and crafts store. Sheets make scary ghosts and just think what can be done with a cardboard box and a little creativity; robots, alligators, a washing machine, it's up to you. If you buy a costume try to get a used one. Try going to a thrift store or online at sites such as craigslist.com or even better, have a costume-swap party!

4. Send E-vites.

Send e-vites to your halloween party instead of paper invitations. Save money, and time and easily keep track of the RSVPs. Sites such as www.evite.com and www.sendomatic.com can help you. For the kids, try BillyBear4Kids.com. They can carve out their own pumpkin e-vite. No mess either!

5. Save some gas and get exercise while trick-or-treating.

Parents may want to follow their kids around town from the comfort of the minivan, but get out, enjoy the air and save the environment. You'll save some money and you just may have some extra fun in the process.



6. Use a pillowcase or reusable grocery bags

Use a pillowcase or reusable grocery bags for collecting all that halloween candy. You can decorate with some washable markers for some extra fun, then just wash when done.

7. Buy natural or fair-trade candy.

These healthier and environmentally friendly alternatives can be found at your local health food store like Whole Foods or websites like www.naturalcandystore.com or www.globalexchange.org. Also, Tiny candies create a lot of wrappers and tummy aches. Consider switching out traditional treats for some fun alternatives to candy such as; Halloween stickers, pencils with Halloween erasers, Halloween bouncy balls and temporary tattoos. Some of these things can be bought with post-consumer recycled content.

Going green is everyone's responsibility. With just a little effort, using these Halloween decorating and party ideas you are sure to keep more cash in your pocket and help our environment stay clean and healthy.

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