

The image features a variety of green leaves and plants scattered around the central text. In the top left, there is a large, deeply lobed leaf. To its right is a single, smooth-edged leaf. Further right are several long, thin, needle-like leaves. In the top right corner, there is a cluster of small, pointed leaves. On the left side, there is a large, heart-shaped leaf. Below it is a smaller, simple leaf. On the right side, there is a long, thin leaf and a star-shaped plant with many small, pointed leaves. At the bottom, there are several more leaves, including a long, thin leaf, a leaf with many small, pointed lobes, two heart-shaped leaves, a large, smooth-edged leaf, and a large, deeply lobed leaf.

This month our focus is:
Christmas

What are the issues?

Christmas celebrations and activities can have a significant effect on our environmental footprints.

From decorations to dinner, presents to parties, Christmas is a time of increased activity and consumption.

The choices we make at Christmas have implications for a range of environmental concerns, such as recycling, shopping ethically, reducing food waste, and saving energy.

For instance, households in the UK produce 30% more waste during the Christmas period than during the rest of the year, and use an average of an extra £50 worth of energy in the month of December.

What can I do?

If you have a living Christmas tree, consider renting one for the festive season, or look into replanting or recycling it after Christmas.

Plan your portions carefully when catering for Christmas and remember to make a plan to eat up your leftovers.

Look for gifts and decorations that are second-hand, locally-produced, organic, or Fairtrade, and have minimal plastic packaging.

Wrap your gifts in recycled or recyclable wrapping paper, or try reusable alternatives like fabric wrap.

If you put up Christmas lights, remember to switch them off overnight, and consider replacing incandescent lights with LEDs.

Where can I learn more?

These posters will be available at standrewsn19.org/ecochurch

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a-greener-christmas-is-the-best-present-for-the-environment>

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/top-tips-sustainable-christmas>

<https://www.edfenergy.com/for-home/energywise/an-eco-friendly-christmas>



<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/house-and-home/household-advice/a25559077/eco-friendly-christmas>

<https://wrap.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/christmas-all-wrapped-wrap-shows-how-have-sustainable-christmas-and>

<https://www.countryliving.com/uk/homes-interiors/interiors/g25329535/eco-friendly-christmas-ideas-green-christmas>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/sustainable-living/christmas-recycling-eco-friendly-sustainable-b1976743.html>