‘Tis the season for living rooms around the country to be covered in a sea of crumpled paper and tossed-aside bows. Yup, wrapping paper from holiday gifts is largely to blame for a 25 percent spike in curbside trash volume between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day, according to the EPA. What is the eco-minded person to do? Here are some ways to give a thoughtfully wrapped present.

Use techniques from **Furoshiki** (the Japanese art of folding cloth) to wrap gifts. A bucket or watering can is easy to fill with gardening supplies, and a mixing bowl or stockpot makes the perfect package for a cook.

**Maps**, especially road maps can become obsolete. However, they never lose their visual intrigue and are great for wrapping a gift!

**Tips for Toppers:** Some of the best decorations for your gifts can be found in backyards, beaches and fields. Sprigs of berries, branches, shells and pinecones are naturally beautiful and don’t require any manufacturing at all … just a short hike. To put that finishing touch on a gift, try a recyclable gift bow from newspaper and magazine pages.