



HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

WHAT TO BUY

EARTH-FRIENDLY GIFTS



Soy Candles — Soy's advantage as a candle material is that it is renewable. While the global reserves of oil shrink and paraffin prices increase, the only limit to the soy supply is how much we grow. In addition to sustainability, a well-made soy candle will burn cleanly and slowly. **Swan Creek Candle Company** and **Heaven's Gate**, both Toledo. **\$15-\$20.**

It's hard not to feel a little Grinch like after buying and receiving umpteen gifts that you neither want nor need. If you have even an inkling of environmental consciousness, it's even more depressing because of all the waste. But with one of these thoughtfully selected items that is kind to the environment, the worker, and the recipient, you can blast some good karma into your gift-buying regime.

— Tanya Irwin
Blade Staff Writer



Rainforest Snack Selection — Save the rainforest by enjoying its bounty. This collection of rainforest-friendly treats includes an assortment of three fair-trade chocolate bars, a bag of cashews, a bag of Brazil nuts, a box of Yachana Jungle Chocolate, and assorted hard candies. **Georgette's**, Maumee. **\$52.99.**



Organic Wine — It's made from the same grapes, in the same regions, and in the same way wine has been made for thousands of years. And yes, the alcohol content is the same. All that's missing are the chemical residues left over from conventional grape growing. **The Andersons**. About **\$10-\$30** a bottle.



Flying Rhino Coffee — The coffee beans that this Toledo roaster buys are Arabica beans grown around the equator in higher elevations. The local company works directly with some farms and a few conscious distributors. Some of the coffee they carry is organic and shade grown. **Flying Rhino Coffee & Chocolate Cafe** or **Toledo Farmer's Market**. **\$9.75-\$11.25** for 12 oz.



Bamboo Cutting Board — It's almost too lovely to use, but the **Totally Bamboo GreenLite Utility Board**, available in a variety of sizes, will make any cutting project a delight. These durable boards were crafted from organically grown bamboo and feature tri-ply construction and a specially formulated non-toxic, high-temperature adhesive that won't compromise the board's quality or your knives' sharpness. **Elder-Beerman**. **\$25-\$40.**



Reusable Tote Bag — It's easy to find tote bags for sale just about everywhere, mostly plastered with the names of the stores that carry them. That's good, anything is better than non-renewable plastic. But this "plarn" (read: plastic yarn) bag is as stylish as it is functional. And bonus, it's made locally by an artist who sells on Etsy, but is willing to deliver locally. **D'Lites by Dorene** on **Etsy.com**. **\$20.**



Dragonfly Artisan Tea Cottage — This lovely local cafe serves a variety of organic food and tea. It also carries a delightful assortment of handmade goods for sale that are made by local artists. **Dragonfly Dollars** can be purchased to give your recipient a lovely meal or quiet tea break. **Dragonfly Artisan Tea Cottage**, Sylvania. **\$20.**



Herbal Soap — Getting clean never smelled so good! Local soap company **Homestead Soaps** makes more than 20 varieties ranging from lemongrass sage to tomato-shiitake. There's unscented oatmeal for the sensitive, and even a dog soap made with cedarwood, lavender, and tea tree oil, which are all wonderful for the skin and as an added bonus, fleas don't like any of them. **Toledo Farmer's Market** and **fromthehomestead.com**. **\$4.25.**



Organic Cotton Bath Towels and Bamboo Bed Sheets — Organic cotton is grown using methods and materials that have a low impact on the environment. Plus, they are super absorbent and available in a rainbow of colors. Bamboo sheets are as soft as silk and wash and wear even better. Renewable bamboo is a grass that can grow 60 feet in three to five years. And because bamboo is continually growing, it does not need replanting and is an easily sustainable natural resource. **Towels: Macy's**, **\$15-\$29.** **Sheets: Elder-Beerman**, **\$40-\$140.**



Organic Honey — The **Wines Bee Yard** of Palmyra, Mich., offers not only organic honey, but lip balm, honey combs, bee pollen, and candles. Starting at **\$8** for honey, **\$2.50** for lip balm, and **\$12** for bee pollen. **Toledo Farmer's Market** and **winesbeeyard.com**.



Eco-friendly Mattresses — Earth-friendly mattresses leave virtually no environmental footprint. There are several varieties available. Those made with foams are manufactured without ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons. Englander, one brand featured, is handcrafted from natural latex, 100 percent organic cotton fabric, and organic New Zealand wool. **Carolina Mattress Company**, 5302 Airport Hwy., Toledo. Prices vary depending on type, size, and manufacturer.

Prices subject to change