

Climate Conversations Shopping and Gifting

St Mark's Creation Care Ministry
December 2022



Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement and Introduction
- Opening Prayer
- The Impact of Shopping and Frameworks for Change
- Discussion
- Opportunities to Shop Better
- Sharing and Q&A
- Closing

Items We Buy Create Emissions & Waste

- 98% of emissions for home & fashion retailers comes from the manufacture, transport and use of products
- Food creates 48% of the land & 70% of the water climate impacts
- An American's CO₂ emissions are = 5x world average
- CO₂ emissions = 6.3X product weight
- > 82 million tons of packaging are thrown out every year (EPA)



The Christmas Season is Worse

- 25% more trash from Thanksgiving to Christmas - 25 million extra tons
- 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the US
- >25 million real Christmas trees sold in the US & Canada every year
- 22% more light from Christmas lights
 - Visible from space, per NASA
- Christmas creep of marketing & the intention-action gap



The Environmental Impact is Huge

- Household consumption has huge environmental impacts
 - >60% of global GHG emissions
 - 50%-80% of land, material & water use
- Consumption & spending on food, travel, lighting & gifts over 3 days of Christmas festivities can cause 650 kg of CO₂ emissions per person*



*Source: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263969440_The_Carbon_Cost_of_Christmas

Consumerism is Rampant

- *The lives of most Americans have become so intermeshed with acts of consumption that they tend to gain their feelings of significance in life from these acts of consumption rather than from their meditations, achievements, inquiries, personal worth, and service to others* — Vance Packard, journalist, 1960
- *The affluent, technologically advanced West seems more and more focused not on consuming to live but on living to consume* — Theologian Rodney Clapp
- *Simplicity isn't simple* — Tish Harrison Warren



Be Content with What You Have

- Luke 12: A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions
- Hebrews 13: Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have
- Proverbs 21: Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich
- 1 Timothy 6: We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.



Decorate Differently

- A real tree
 - Keeps land open to grow, absorb carbon, renewable and recyclable
- E-cards or cards from recycled paper
- Recycled content wrapping paper
 - Comics or maps
- Old holiday cards to make gift tags
- Decorate with what you already own
- Decorate with nature
- Reduce or eliminate Christmas lights



Alternatives to Traditional Shopping

- Talk with the recipient and give what they need
- Buy less, with more intentionality
- Give experiences
- Give gifts that last for a lifetime
- Give pre-owned items as gifts
- Give virtual gifts
 - Use time, talent or treasure
- Make gifts
- Donate in the recipient's name



Discussion & Breakout Session

Questions:

- What goals do you have for your investing?
- Are there changes you might consider to align creation care, your values and your investments?



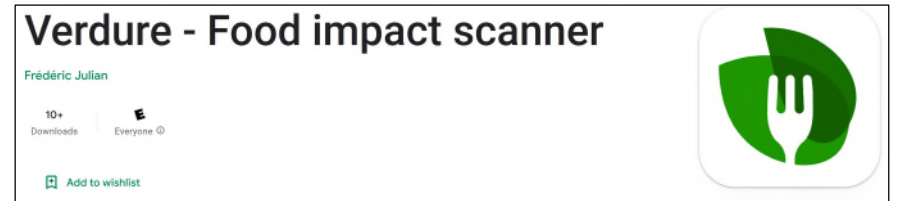
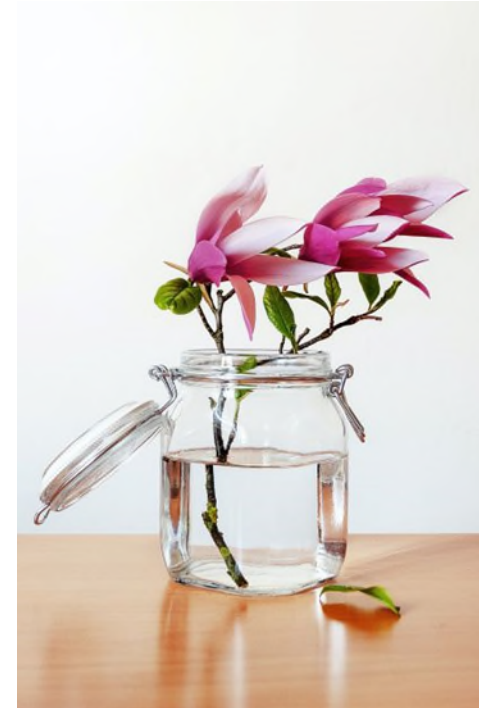
Initial Ideas for Advent & Christmas

- Advent – Daily activities
 - A reverse Advent calendar - place an item in a box daily & donate
 - Advent Jar: Put change in & donate
- Wrapping: Wrap gifts in recycled paper, decorate with messages & potato stamp
- Ornaments from second-hand stores
- Edible stocking stuffers
- Meat-free Christmas
- Shop at farmers' markets



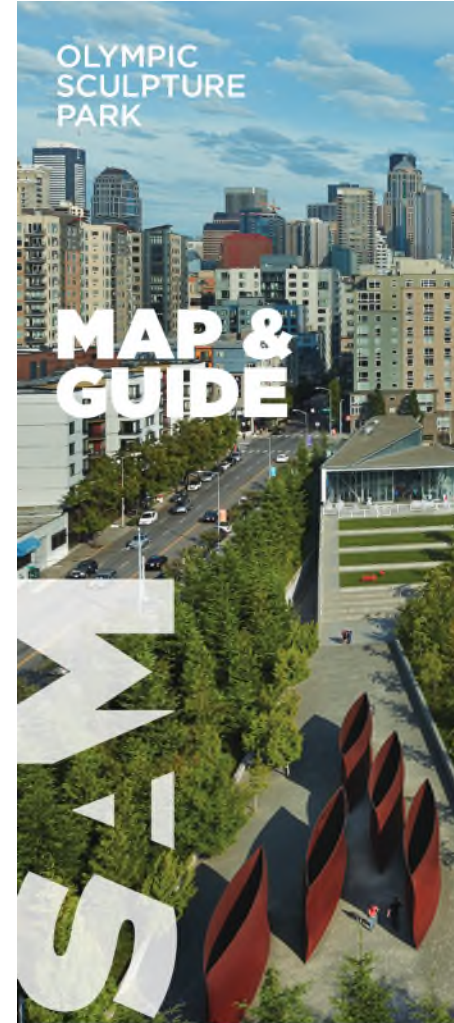
Shop Carefully and Sustainably

- Consider and compare online and in-person shopping
- Online, go slow & consolidate
- Check the carbon impact
 - [Carbon Catalog](#)
- Scan products – Verdure or Giki app
- Bamboo, glass, metal, paper or food instead of plastic



Give Experiences

- Give time or talent
 - Coffee with family & friends
 - Help a neighbor
 - Membership to state or national parks, the zoo or museums
- Outings to museums, parks, picnics, beaches, hikes or full moon walks



Give Virtual Gifts

- Donate to a climate organization
 - Organizations focused on food waste, forest protection, girls' education or carbon pollution
- Memberships to arts organizations, museums, parks or gardens
- An online news subscription
- Donation to a charity
 - Kiva or Habitat for Humanity
- Donation to an organization your loved one cares about



The Seattle Times

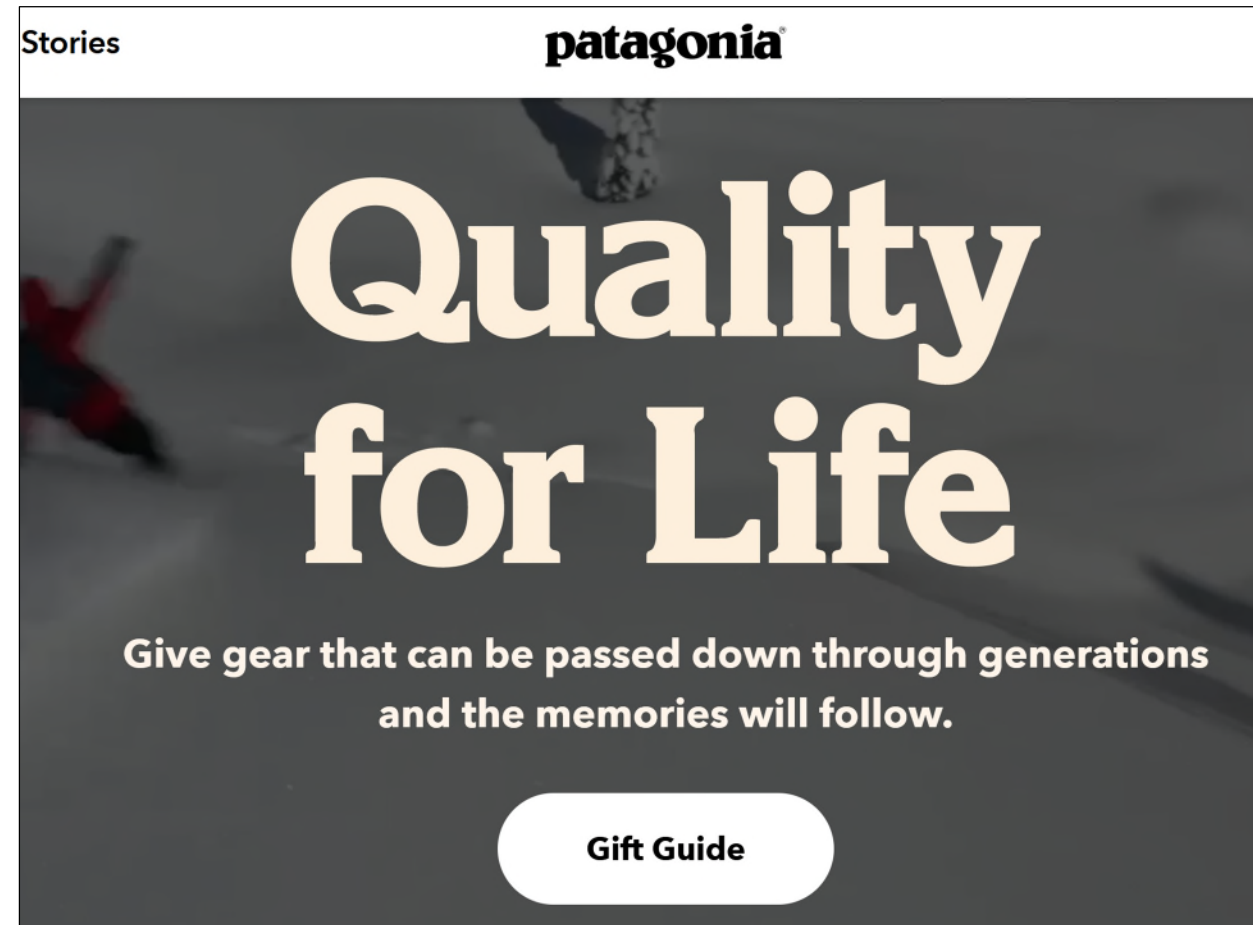
Make Your Own Gifts

- A collection of family recipes
- Ornament or calendar with family photos or a photo collage
- Make jam or bake cookies
 - Cookie jar
- Welcome sign
- Handmade vases or cups
- Homemade soap
- Wind chime



Buy Good Stuff that Lasts

- Choose product with:
 - Long life
 - Parts are easily available and replaceable
 - Produced in a socially and environmentally ethical process

A screenshot of a Patagonia website section titled 'Stories'. The background is a dark, grainy image of a person skydiving. The text 'Quality for Life' is prominently displayed in a large, light-colored serif font. Below it, a smaller line of text reads 'Give gear that can be passed down through generations and the memories will follow.' At the bottom, there is a white rounded rectangular button with the text 'Gift Guide' in black.

Stories **patagonia**

Quality for Life

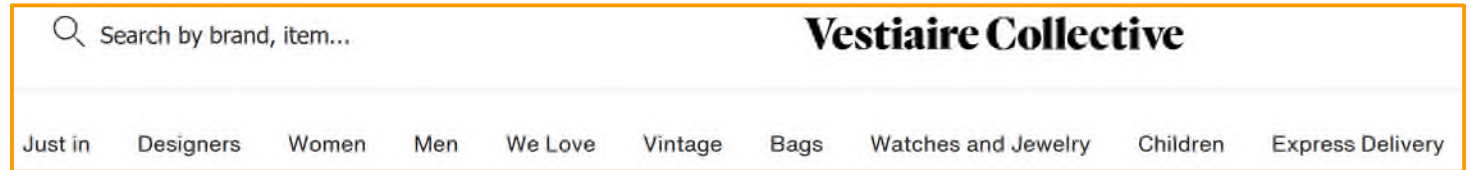
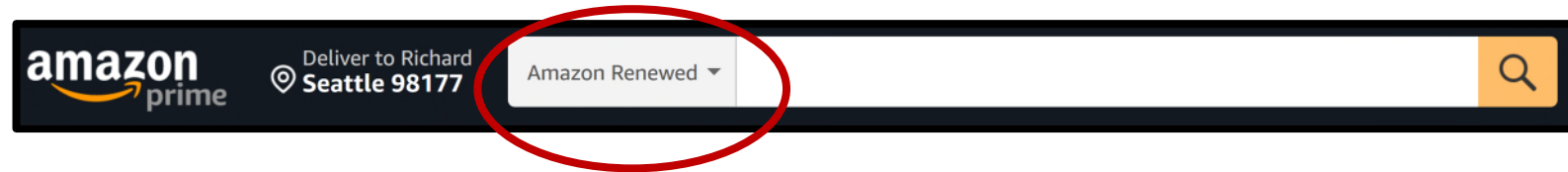
Give gear that can be passed down through generations
and the memories will follow.

Gift Guide

Shift from Brand New to Pre-Loved

- Places to shop include:

- Amazon Renewed
- Vestiaire Collective



- The rationale:

- Save the earth / Care for Creation
- And save money

Use Sustainable Gift Wrapping

- Replace wrapping paper with comics, maps or catalog pages
- Newspaper
- Recycled string instead of ribbon
- Used fabrics
- Tree sprigs
- Leftover paper
- Used glass jars



Give Eco-Friendly Gifts

- Gifts with an environmental message
 - Nature book
 - Refillable thermos bottle
 - Gifts made from recycled materials
 - Solar powered products

[SHOP](#) ▾[BUNDLES](#) ▾[OUR STORY](#) ▾[SUPPORT](#) ▾[United States](#)

Give
Light



Give Light

\$20.00 USD

Cause: Refugee Relief

Refugee Relief

Disaster Relief

Allocate as Needed

Amount: \$20

\$20

\$10

\$50

\$100

Quantity:

Do More

- Ask to be removed from catalog mailing lists
- Proactively purchase green products
 - Look for it, ask for it
- Buy products with recycled content
- Use baking soda and vinegar for cleaning
- Eat local (vegetables & fruits)



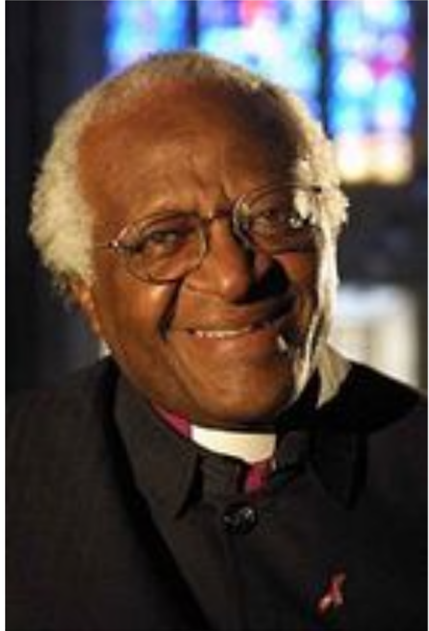
Sharing, Discussion and Q&A

Questions

- How do you learn about potential investments?
- What is your experience with investing for impact?
- What concerns do you have about investing for creation care?



Make a Difference



“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

— Desmond Tutu

tags: goodness, incrementalism, kindness



One person can make a difference.
You don't have to be a big shot. You
don't have to have a lot of influence.
You just have to have faith in your
power to change things.

— Norman Vincent Peale —

AZQUOTES

Closing

- Closing prayer

