

25 Ways to Spend Less this Christmas

Use this list as an inspiration to spend less this holiday season. Take the money you save and donate it to the Advent Conspiracy Love All Offering. Making small changes can make a big difference in as little as one month.

How to use this list:

- Put it on your fridge or someplace else that is visible. Check things off as you try them.
- Choose 5 things to do.
- Talk to other people about what they are doing.
- See what kind of dent you can make!

Category	Ideas	Potential savings over 1 month	Real savings over 1 month
Christmas Celebrations	reuse, recycle, or make decorations	\$30	
	buy a potted evergreen that can be used as your tree every year	\$30	
	buy one less Christmas gift	\$30	
	set spending limits on gifts (i.e., nothing over \$20)	\$40	
	make your own gift wrap using newspaper or paper bags	\$10	
	buy family gifts instead of individual	\$50	
	buy from resale or second-hand stores	\$75	
	send E-Cards instead of mailed cards (saves on cards & postage!)	\$40	
	be creative with gift giving- see the <i>give more</i> blog page for ideas*	\$100	
Food & Drink	cut back on drinks from coffee shops/restaurants	\$20	
	drink only water	\$50	
	replace one meal a week with popcorn or rice & beans	\$60	
	pack a lunch (i.e., cut lunch out one meal/week)	\$40	
	give up little luxuries (i.e., junk food, sweets, alcohol)	\$50	
Entertainment	find community activities that are free (i.e., visiting the Capitol)*	\$20	
	play board games at home instead of going out	\$20	
Go Green	turn down your thermostat 5 degrees when you are sleeping or away	\$35	
	save gas: carpool, walk, bike (save up to a tank of gas)	\$30	
Shopping	buy only generic brands	\$15	
	stop impulse buys from convenience stores or check out aisles	\$15	
	clip coupons	\$15	
	go to the library instead of purchasing books or renting dvds	\$25	
	buy only true necessities	\$100	
	have swap parties instead of buying- clothes, decorations, etc.	\$100	
My Own Ideas			
Our Advent Conspiracy Offering		Potential \$1,000	Actual

* Find tips and resources at advent.blackhawkchurch.org