

Share the Love, Hug a Tree
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It's that time of year again. The last of the holiday season, the holiday that divides the population quicker than last fall's election: Valentine's Day. Mention this day to anyone and you'll get one of two opposite reactions; it's either the most romantic day of the year or it's an evil conspiracy to sell greeting cards and chocolate. Not surprisingly, this division usually coincides with the relationship status of the individual.

Single or attached, love it or hate it, mid-February is a time of hearts and candies, reds and pinks...but what about green? Valentine's Day may be controversial, but the gifts can have a purpose everyone can get behind. In an era of environmental consciousness and social responsibility, this year, spread the love further with these green gift ideas:

The Green Glass Company - <http://www.greenglass.com/>

If you're sharing a bottle of wine this Valentine's, why not drink it from recycled glass goblets? The Green Glass Company recycles wine, beer, and soda bottles to create unique and creative glassware. Cups, goblets, and vases (perhaps for those Valentine's flowers?) can be found here in a variety of colors and designs.

Endangered Species Chocolate - <http://www.chocolatebar.com/>

Planning on purchasing some sweets for your sweetie? The Endangered Species brand not only supports the conservation of Earth's animals and habitats, but it's also 100% ethically traded. This year, give the gift of chocolate along with a unique endangered species valentine like the "you make my heart leap" card featuring a photo of a tree frog. Fun fact: the company's eco-conscious production center is located right here in Indianapolis to allow for reduced shipping costs around the country.

Brilliant Earth Diamonds - <http://www.brilliantearth.com/>

Popping the question this February? Brilliant Earth offers recycled metal, conflict-free, and environmentally-mined diamond and sapphire jewelry. Further philanthropy: 5% of their profits are donated to African communities that have been harmed by the diamond industry and additional contributions are made to various non-profits around the world.

Made by Girl (Recycled) Cards - <http://www.madebygirl.com/>

Sending your love through the mail this year? This small, individually owned site sells unique and adorable love notes printed on recycled and post-consumer paper. Each card contains a creative design and cute cover phrase such as "you're my peanut butter, i'm your jelly." And if that's not eco enough for you, there's always the greenest of greeting card options: the Hallmark e-card.

Whichever way you choose to express love this Valentine's Day, feel confident knowing that, as the cards are crumpled and the chocolate digests, your purchase has reached further than February 14th.