

# LIVING & MOVING GREEN - SUPPORT PACKAGE



## Green Easter

When celebrating any holiday, such as Easter, we can always think of ways to waste less. You might not realize how big of an impact chocolate, candy, packaging, and consumerism have on our planet. Materials like plastic, foil, and food waste have a big environmental impact. So let's go green this Easter! There are lots of ways we can celebrate Easter more sustainably to support our planet. This support package will provide some tips to ensure you have a green Easter and reduce your ecological footprint!

Easter traditions in Nova Scotia include bunny-shaped gifts, chocolates, cards, and plastic baskets filled with treats. Some stores start selling Easter products as early as January! We can take steps, in the classroom and at home, to ensure we enjoy holidays like Easter while wasting less, and considering the Earth.

## Action Plan

**Get crafty!** Check out the [Green Schools NS Green Easter Pinterest](#) board to find lots of Green Easter ideas. Some of these ideas are listed below. You can also contact your Green Schools NS Engagement Officer to schedule a virtual visit for this holiday. This will help everyone start to consider the Earth first this holiday!

**Reuse a basket** year after year instead of purchasing a new one. If you need a new basket, try finding it at a local thrift shop, or [make one yourself](#). Get creative! You can use old coffee cans, candle holders, buckets, bowls and more. Instead of the fake plastic "grass" often found in baskets, make your own from shredded recycled paper or comics. If you have plastic grass from last year, why not reuse it? The less plastic we use, the less plastic ends up in the ocean, in the landfill, and all over the planet. You could plan ahead and [grow your own grass](#) for the baskets! You could also reuse scrap textiles or yarn. For some great snacking, use popcorn in place of grass. Kids will love this tasty treat and there'll be zero-waste. Get those creative juices flowing!



**Easter egg hunt.** If you use plastic eggs, make sure to reuse them. You can refill them each year with new goodies! If you need more, check your local thrift stores to reduce your Easter consumption habits. If you have an abundance of plastic eggs, why not turn them into something new? Here are [25 ideas for plastic eggs](#). Students can bring in their extra plastic eggs to take part in these great crafts. You can use real eggs to make a "breakfast basket". Have students help you prepare eggs for breakfast. You can decorate them beforehand



with crayons or dye them the natural way (see below). You could make your own eggs from recycled materials such as [plastic bottles](#), [scrap yarn](#), twine, [paint swatches](#), etc. Why not have an Easter Egg Hunt outdoors? Take note of how many eggs you hid and where. Try numbering them so aren't forgotten.

**Natural egg dye.** Try making your own [natural dyes](#) for your Easter eggs. It requires a bit more work but it can be fun for students, family or friends to do together, and the products are non-toxic and use simple household materials and foods. Who knew that red cabbage makes blue eggs?

**Purchase sustainable treats.** When buying chocolates and other goodies, avoid individually wrapped treats, or look for recycled/recyclable packaging. Look for chocolate with the least amount of packaging. Look for chocolate that was made with the Earth in mind, such as fair trade, organic, or sustainably certified products. Watch the videos below to learn more.

**Easter cards.** Anytime we send cards is an opportunity to try making them from scratch. Use old postcards, photos, or look for supplies made from 100% recycled materials. You could make your own [seed paper](#) cards. Once dry, you can decorate them however you want, and can even mail them in homemade, upcycled envelopes. Alternatively, you could try sending e-cards. There are many ways to reduce our impact!



**Start a new Easter tradition.** Plant a tree, shrub, or plant in your yard this season and watch it grow over the years. You can plant something in the schoolyard for all students and staff to enjoy. Easter time is when we start to see renewal in the Earth as the season begins to change. Let's get outside and relate to nature together!

**Easter meal choices.** When planning ahead for a meaningful meal, purchase what you can from local farmers. Make sure to bring your own containers and reusable shopping and [produce bags](#) for a zero-waste meal. You can even save your scraps to make soup stock!

**Afterwards.** Once holiday celebrations have ended, reuse and recycle all that you can! Foil, boxes, cards, and gifts can all be reused, upcycled, or recycled. If you don't know what can and can't be recycled, check your local curbside waste collection website. You can use leftover eggshells from real eggs to [start seedlings](#) for the garden! It's springtime, after all!

## Resources

[Green Schools NS Activity: Make Your Own Seed Paper](#)

[Green Schools NS Green Easter Pinterest Board](#)

[DIY Upcycled Envelopes](#)

[Nova Scotia Recycling Tips](#)

[How to Go Green at Easter](#)

[Sprout Seeds in an Eggshell](#)

[Barry Callebaut's Forever Chocolate - making sustainable chocolate the norm](#)

[UN Food and Agriculture Organization - Food Wastage Footprint](#)



<https://www.mommypotamus.com/how-to-dye-easter-eggs-naturally-with-everyday-ingredients/>

