Celebrating Valentine's day with your sweetheart is a wonderful but often times stressful event. Getting the right dinner reservations and buying a card you think wholly captures your love for another can make you want to skip the whole thing entirely. But, sometimes we forget that it doesn't matter if we buy one another expensive gifts or cards we're just going to eventually throw right into the garbage.

The commercialization of Valentine's day has gotten a little out of hand, and if you're trying to help be a greener person, there's plenty of ways to tell your honey how much they mean to you.

Local Flora is the Best Kind

While roses and other cut flower bouquets smell wonderful and look great, you might end up getting more bang for your buck (and a lovely addition to your living room) when you buy your flowers from your neighborhood nursery! This gives you the chance to speak with someone in the store, who you can talk to when selecting the arrangement of your bouquet.

You can also purchase a living plant if you want your beautiful gift to last just a bit longer. Either option will bring that pop of color to your home during the chilly month of February until Spring comes around! Your sweetheart will enjoy the thoughtful gesture for a Valentine's day they won't forget.

Handmade Goodness

It's easy to hop onto Amazon or run to your local Target to pick up that special something as your Valentine's Day gift last minute. The only problem is sometimes those gifts are overpriced, are wrapped in a ton of harmful plastic, and probably isn't quite what you wanted to get in the first place.

What's great is that you can miss the lines at the store, and buy or even make your own gifts to give to one another. Buying from local stores is an added benefit too because you're keeping revenue in the community. There's a number of business owners who sell jewelry, paintings, hand-knitted scarves and more!

Work On your Green Thumb

Placing potted plants in your home or apartment is a wonderful way to add a pop of color to your decor, but you can also start a garden of your own, or adopt and plant your own tree too. Even though the weather might be a little chilly where you are, doesn't mean you can't donate to the Arbor Day Foundation in the name of love.

Adding more trees only increases the chances for even cleaner air, and can actually save you up to 30 percent of the energy used in your home. What's not to like about saving the planet while also sharing some quality time with your significant other?

Find An Adventure

No one said that Valentine's Day *has* to be about candlelit dinners and boxes of chocolates far too big to consume. If you live anywhere near trails, bodies of water or any other area considered to be the "outdoors," you can simply slip on a pair of walking shoes and go explore a new area of your city or state!

There's nothing like seeing the sunrise on a brisk winter morning, or taking in the tranquility of nature, especially if you're with someone you love spending time with. All you need is your backpack, a mug full of hot cocoa and your adventurous side and you've got yourself a free and eco-friendly day planned for the two of you.

Valentine's Day doesn't always mean you have to be sandwiched between hanging red and pink hearts in a dimly lit sushi joint. It can also be a time where you focus less on the gifts, expensive food and fancy outfits and instead just enjoy each other's company while also keeping a friendly relationship with the Earth too.

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