

It's that time of the year again! Before you hit the sales for back-to-school shopping, take note of a few tips to 'green' your shopping efforts.

- Organize a clothing swap with family, friends or neighbors. Clothing one child needed the previous school year can often be passed on to a younger sibling or friend.
- Inventory your supplies. Before heading to the store take stock of pencils, crayons, glue, tape and markers leftover from the previous year. Use what you have before buying more.
- Make a list before you leave the house. Most schools provide a list of required supplies. After crossing out what you already have, create a new smaller list to take to the store.
- Buy used textbooks. You will save money and reduce the amount of books being printed, which can ultimately save more trees.
- Rent or borrow. If your child is interested in playing a sport or an instrument, consider renting or borrowing items they need to save resources and money.