

## **Holiday Energy Savings**

*by Sustainable Belmont*

Think it's hard to conserve during the holiday season? Think again! Follow these simple tips to make this holiday season greener, cheaper, and more festive than ever.

- Don't open the oven door during cooking, which can lower the temperature inside, increasing cooking time and wasting energy. Instead, turn on the oven light and look through the oven window to check the progress of your food.
- Don't overlook small appliances for cooking. Slow cookers (crock-pots) are perfect for busy families. On average, they will cook a whole meal for about 17 cents worth of electricity. Electric skillets can steam, fry, saute, stew, bake, or roast a variety of food items. For baking or broiling small food items, a toaster oven is ideal because it uses one-third the energy of a bigger oven.
- Make 2009 the year you switch to LED holiday lights. Available in a variety of festive colors, they're shatterproof, shock resistant, and won't burn children's hands! They also present no fire hazard, save up to 80-90 percent of your energy costs, and can last for years.
- Doing lots of online shopping? Use a Smart Strip surge protector to automatically turn off your computer and other peripherals to save energy and money. Visit the BMLD website to receive a coupon code for a discount for specific models.

*For more information on Sustainable Belmont, visit [www.sustainablebelmont.net](http://www.sustainablebelmont.net)*