

rock from metal. The classic jewelry company Tiffany & Co. (tiffany.com) sells rings made from cyanide-free gold.

Look for Canadian diamonds. When diamond shopping, seek out a reputable seller who can guarantee the stone is conflict-free (not associated with human rights abuses) and mined under environmentally and socially responsible conditions. A diamond certified by the United Nations' Kimberley Process is a good place to start, but this label has its shortcomings: Although it's meant to identify gems that didn't fund civil wars, it's poorly regulated and doesn't address human rights violations like child labor, according to Beth Gerstein, co-CEO and cofounder of Brilliant Earth (brilliantearth.com). Like many responsible jewelers, Gerstein sources most of her diamonds from Canada, a country with strict mining standards.

Organizing transport

Encourage carpooling. If you have a wedding website, create a section where guests can coordinate ride sharing. To further cut down on carbon emissions on the big day, arrange for shuttle buses to move guests between venues.

Ask about green vehicles. Depending on the location of your wedding, you may be able to book a car service that uses hybrids or runs on biofuel. "Lexus hybrid vehicles are used by limo companies around the country," says Kimberley Gardiner, Lexus event marketing manager and head of Lexus Hybrid Living events nationwide.

Offset your guests' travel. If you'd like to make your wedding carbon-neutral, you can visit sites like terrapass.com, which will help you calculate the emissions generated during the event and will show you how to purchase green energy credits to "offset" this amount.

Arranging decor

Rent from the venue. Thryn Lee and Gabe Albin held their ceremony and reception at the Marion Hatcher Center, a historic mansion in the heart of downtown Augusta, Ga.; staying in one place not only reduced the carbon footprint of the wedding, but it also



Use tree cuttings and other natural items for unique, low-impact bouquets and accents.



allowed the couple to be flexible with decorating. "They had all the candles and vases we needed on-site, so we didn't have to purchase and transport those items," says Lee.

Borrow from nature. Whether it's fruit or tree cuttings or seashells, Joannie Liss of Joannie Liss Events (joannielissevents.com) in San Francisco encourages you to look around for natural elements to enhance the ambience. "For a farm wedding we did in Sweden, we decorated the site with hay bales, and the bride carried a bouquet of wheat," she says.

Choose local blooms. For flowers, Loux suggests looking for locally grown (and organic, whenever possible) blossoms. "This will help cut down on emissions from shipping," she explains. To support flower growers, choose