Waste: Mid-Campaign Newsletter

PHOTOS OF HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR

**In this section, insert photos and captions of some of the entries you have received from members of your team.**

UPCOMING Event

Title: Sewing Repair Skills Class

We are only a few days away from the *Sewing Repair Skills Class* event, featuring **[INSERT NAME OF ORGANIZATION].**Learn some basic sewing repair skills and help keep textiles out of landfill by giving them a longer life! Don’t forget to register for the event below and join us on **(INSERT DATE AND TIME).**

Register here **[INSERT LINK]**

TAKE ACTION

Remember to complete the activities below and submit your photos to **[insert champion and contact details]** to earn points!  Each activity it worth 50 points and can be submitted multiple times.

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| **Activity**  | **Description**  | **Photo proof**  |
| **Manage your organic waste**  | Organic waste (food scraps, coffee grounds, fats/oils/greases, etc.) does not belong in the trash. There are a few ways to manage it including municipal collection or home compost. Want to reduce the smell? Try keeping a bag or container in the fridge or freezer!  | Photo with your organic waste bin or home compost.  |
| **Set up a vermicompost or compost in your yard**  | Set up a compost bin in your yard or a vermicompost system which uses worms to break down organic waste to create compost for your plants.  | Photo of the compost or vermicompost bin in your yard.  |
| **Make natural home cleaning products**  | Make your own natural home cleaning products! This will help save you money and avoid the use of harsh chemicals. Examples include using vinegar and/or baking soda to help keep your home clean.  | Photo of the natural cleaning products being used in your home.  |
| **Replace kitchen paper towels with a sustainable alternative**  | Reduce or eliminate the amount of disposable paper towels in your home by repurposing old dishtowels or clothes that can't be donated into "un-paper" towels. This will help save you money and save trees in the long run!  | Photo of your sustainable kitchen towels.  |
| **Upcycle clothing to create face masks**  | Learn how to create fabric face masks using old clothing. Many online tutorials are available to learn this special skill.  | Photo while in the process of making your fabric mask.  |
| **Plan menus ahead of time and create a grocery list to reduce food waste**  | Plan out the meals you will be having in the coming week and make a list of all the ingredients you will need to buy at the grocery store. This helps reduce unexpected purchases and limits food waste.  Buy only the amount you intend to use so you can eat it before it spoils!  | Photo of your grocery list and/or grocery store items you ended up purchasing.  |
| **Repair or upcycle clothing**  | Learn some basic mending skills. There are many online tutorials that can be followed so you can continue wearing your favourite items or find new uses for damaged clothing.  | Photo of your clothing repair job.  |
| **Have a clothing swap with friends, family, or roommates**  | Collect a handful of items that you no longer want and would like to trade with family, friends, or roommates. To follow physical distancing rules, take photos of the clothes you have available so others can choose what they are interested in, similar to online shopping! Have others do the same so you also get to choose some new items.  | Photo of the clothes you are offering and show photos of what others have offered.  |
| **Repair an item instead of throwing it out**  | Do you have an item that is slightly damaged and can use some repairs? Invest some time in repairing the item and using it instead of purchasing something new. This applies to anything other than clothing, such as old toys, electronics or appliances.  | Photo of your item that needed repairs, and another photo that shows your progress in making the repair.  |
| **Use reusable bags**  | Canada plans to ban single-use plastics by 2021, which includes plastic shopping bags. Remember to bring reusable bags when grocery shopping and reduce or eliminate the need for plastic bags. Consider using reusable produce bags to carry your produce home.  | Photo of your reusable shopping and/or produce bags.  |
| **Remove your address from junk mail lists**  | Put up a sign on your mailbox that says "No Junk Mail" and unsubscribe from any junk mail lists that you may be part of. This will reduce the amount of paper waste getting into your mailbox and eventually placed into your recycling bin.  | Photo of a "No Junk Mail" sign on your mailbox.  |
| **Use leftover pasta water on your plants**  | Pasta water provides extra nutrients that can help plants grow. Next time you boil pasta, save the water and use it in your garden! You can also save the water you use to rinse off fruits and vegetables and use that to water your plants.  | Photo of you draining your pasta water another photo of you watering your plants with it.  |
| **Donate unwanted items**  | Go through your closets and storage bins and take out any items you are not using anymore. Put them aside and donate them to local community organizations and divert them from the landfill. Items may include textiles, sporting goods, small furniture items or appliances.  | Photo of your donations before they are dropped off, or a photo of you at a drop-off centre or bin.  |
| **Set up a neighbourhood sharing library**  | Build your own or use an old container to set up a neighborhood sharing library filled with books, non-perishable food items, or household goods to support those in your community who may need them.   | Photo of your sharing library with the items inside of it.  |
| **Conduct your own 20 minute makeover cleanup**  | Set aside 20 minutes and head outside with a garbage bag and protective gear to pick up litter in your local neighborhood.  | Photo of you and/or your family/neighbours collecting litter found in your neighbourhood while social distancing.  |

EXPLORING THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In each newsletter, we will be focusing on one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and bringing you videos, articles, and news stories to help increase awareness around these critical global goals.

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Subtitle: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The United Nations estimates that between 2010 and 2017, the global material footprint (an indicator of the pressure put on the environment to support economic growth and satisfy the material needs of Earth's growing population) has increased by 17.4%. Earth's increasing population has also resulted in increased amounts of food loss and waste, and polluting water faster than nature can recycle and purify it in rivers and lakes.

As a consumer, reducing waste and being thoughtful about what you purchase (i.e. choosing a sustainable option whenever possible) will help work towards this goal. Actions such as reducing food waste, recycling, reducing your use of plastic, and purchasing items second hand are all good ways to do your part.

**Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFkM-s6hBsM**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SDGS:**[**https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/sustainable-development-goals/**](https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/sustainable-development-goals/)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

* [**Innovative Business Solutions to Combat Food Waste and Insecurity**](https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/resources/webinar-food-waste-insecurity/)- Partners in Project Green (webinar)
* [**Repair Cafe Toronto**](https://repaircafetoronto.ca/) (organization)
* [**Waste Land: Ontario Has a Blue-Bin Crisis**](https://www.tvo.org/article/waste-land-part-3-ontario-has-a-blue-bin-crisis) - TVO (three-part series)
* [**Working Towards a Circular Economy**](https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/recycling-organics-garbage/long-term-waste-strategy/working-toward-a-circular-economy/)- City of Toronto (web page)
* [**Zero Waste Countdown**](https://zerowastecountdown.com/) (podcast)
* [**Plastic Action Centre**](https://plasticactioncentre.ca/) - Recycling Council of Ontario (webpage)
* [**Plastic, Paper, or Cotton: Which Shopping Bag is Best?**](https://phys.org/news/2020-05-plastic-paper-cotton-bag.html) (article)
* [**Activities and Crafts**](https://rochmanlab.com/activities-and-crafts/) - University of Toronto Rochman Lab