Plastic Waste Reduction: 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.**

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** |
| **Repair or upcycle 1 piece of clothing or shoes** | Learn some basic mending skills or take items to a tailor. There are many online tutorials that can be followed so you can continue wearing your favourite items or find new uses for damaged clothing. Considering many of our modern fabrics are made with plastic materials, repairing your clothes also helps reduce plastic waste! | Upload a photo of your clothing repair job. |
| **Go through your closet and donate clothing you no longer wear** | Keep clothes out of landfill by donating items, even if they are stained or damaged - many organizations recycle unsellable items. | Upload a photo of your bag of donations |
| **Repair 1 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. | Upload two photos - a before and after of your repair job. |
| **Give plastic items a second life** | Before you buy new plastic items, use buy and sell groups, thrift stores and buy nothing groups to source what you need. Offering up items you are no longer using helps others do the same. Keep plastics out of landfill! | Upload a photo of the plastic item you gave, or the item you got, second hand. |
| **Conduct your own Shoreline Cleanup** | Head outside with a garbage bag and protective gear to pick up litter in your local neighborhood. | Upload a photo of you and/or your family/neighbours collecting litter found in your neighbourhood (while following any guidelines around social distancing.) |
| **Avoid non-recyclable food packaging wherever possible** | Here are some tips to avoid non-recyclable food waste packaging: learn what packaging is recyclable in your municipally and purchase accordingly; buy dry food items in bulk and bring your own jars / use deposit jars; avoid processed foods; join a Community Supported Agriculture program; choose unpackaged produce; use reusable produce bags when allowed. | Upload a photo of your plastic free food items. |
| **Choose 'naked' or bulk refill personal care products** | Naked' packaging refers to items being package free. These solid products are made with little to no water, so they don't need any synthetic preservatives and make it easy to do away with plastic. You can find solid shampoo bars, conditioners, soaps, and more. Some stores also offer bulk liquid shampoo, soap, bubble bath and other products. | Upload a photo of your naked personal products, or of you filling your personal container from a bulk fill station. |
| **Refuse single use plastics such straws, cutlery, bags and balloons, including compostable ones - many municipal systems cannot compost these items. If you require a straw, choose a reusable one, if feasible** | When ordering food, remember to let the restaurant know you don't need any plastic straws or cutlery - and leave the napkins out too while you are at it! Remember, many municipalities cannot process compostable items and they end up in landfill. Also, bring reusable grocery and produce bags when grocery shopping. Planning a party? Think of fabric bunting or paper garlands instead of balloons. | Upload a photo of you using your sustainable alternative to single use plastic. |
| **Get a microfiber capture system in your washing machine** | Purchase and use a Cora, Guppyfriend, or MicroPlastics LUV-R to stop microfibers from your clothing from entering our waterways. | Upload a photo of your microfiber laundry capture solution. |
| **Create or enhance your Sustainable Procurement Policy** | Sustainable procurement means taking the social and economic impacts of purchased goods and services into account, along with their environmental footprint. Work with the relevant departments in your organization to create a policy. | Phase 1 - Upload a photo of your meeting with the relevant departments  Phase 2 - Upload a copy of your core procurement criteria and draft policy  Phase 3 - Upload a photo of the final policy or a purchase made through the policy |
| **Participate in a Material Exchange** | Do you have office equipment or other materials that are in good condition, but you no longer need? Participate in a Material Exchange, where we work with you to find organizations that can make use of that material, so it avoids ending up in landfill! | Contact Partners in Project Green to help facilitate an exchange and inform them you are reaching out to secure points for People Power Challenge on Demand! You can reach the team at admin@partnersinprojectgreen.com |
| **Replace single use items with reusable options** | Phase 1 - Work with management and cafeteria staff to discuss the impacts of plastic utensils on the environment.  Phase 2 - Create a plan to get rid of all plastic utensils (excluding straws for accessibility reasons) in your cafeteria.   Phase 3 - Implement the replacement of these utensils with reusables for employees to borrow, wash and return. | Phase 1 - Upload a photo of your meeting with management or cafeteria staff.  Phase 2 - Upload a copy of your plan to rid of plastic utensils.  Phase 3 - Upload a screenshot of a purchase order for reusable utensils, or a letter from your facilities manager. |
| **If you are already using or considering compostable items as an alternative to single use plastic items, confirm with your waste hauler that they can be composted using their existing waste processing systems** | Many compostable items end up in landfill, as existing municipal and waste hauler systems cannot compost them. Ensure any compostable items your organization is currently, or considering, using are compostable in your waste haulers existing system and will not be screened off as contamination. | Upload confirmation from your waste hauler that compostable items will be composted and not end up in landfills. |
| **Green your coffee station** | Take a close look at how your coffee can affect the environment. Source fair trade beans, reusable coffee filters, mugs, and cutlery, and eliminate individually packaged milk, cream, and sugar. | Upload the proof of purchase(s) for your sustainably sourced coffee station or a photo of it. |
| **Promote the use of your reusable water bottle station or reverse osmosis system** | Encourage the use of your reusable water bottle station or reverse osmosis system - you can give employees water bottles, provide information about the use of plastic items, ensure staff have a place to wash their reusable cups and bottles, and/or reward staff for going reusable! | Upload a photo of a component of your promotion efforts. |
| **Install a system to prevent litter from entering the stormwater system** | There are a variety of systems, such as grates, that can be placed on stormwater drains to capture litter and prevent it from entering our waterways. This is especially important in the case of pre-production plastic pellets and other microplastics. Do your part and capture the litter before it enters our waterways! | Upload a photo of your litter capture system. |

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

* [**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