



Guide to Sustainability Projects

The Basics

1. Leadership Development is Key

When you are ready to hold an event or take action related to sustainability, it is important to have one or two passionate people spearheading the project. With someone in charge of delegating tasks and providing updates can maintain enthusiasm and a clear project direction.

2. Reach Out

Finding already existing resources close to home can save the committee a lot of work. Thinking about planting trees? Perhaps there is already a group you could collaborate with. Reaching out to businesses and business alliances, environmental organizations, other non-profits, and schools will provide you with additional information and ensure that your committee maintains a quality relationships.

3. Raise Awareness

Running events that get community members aware and involved will speak well for your success in the future. Events such as movie screenings, book talks or speakers will help you find talent in the community and gain support. It is also an opportunity to share the committees visions and concerns with other residents, creating a logical starting place for bigger actions.

4. Start Small

While you may be inclined to dive directly into your committee goals, remember that small projects will add up to create big changes. Break down goals into actions that can be completed in a reasonable amount of time with existing resources and participants. Opportunities will continuously present themselves, so take you time.

Sample Actions Utilizing the Climate Action Plan Framework

Unsure of how your neighborhood can make an impact on sustainability? Small steps for a big impact.

Buildings & Energy

- Create a group of knowledgeable community members to offer free energy efficiency advice.
- Get a group together who are interested in going solar. Buying together, cuts costs.

Urban Form & Mobility

- Encourage people to get out of their cars and onto their bikes through a bike buddies programs or safe routes to school.
- Try closing off a road to cars once a month to create a bike and pedestrian only zone.

Urban Forestry and Natural Systems

- Distribute educational materials on gardening and landscaping with native plants.
- Identify public spaces to plant trees.

Consumption and Solid Waste

- Arrange a community drop-off of hard to recycle materials (i.e. light bulbs & batteries).
- Sell reusable bags with a neighborhood logo.
- Set up a Green Business Agreement that advertises which businesses are on board.

Food and Agriculture

- Coordinate bulk food purchasing: save money and reduce energy consumption and waste.
- Educate people about how their food choices effect the environment.
- Create a community garden.

