

WASTE

The average American produces 34.3 pounds of waste per week. Waste production is a great habit to unlearn with your neighbors!

These cards are meant to guide you through ways to minimizing waste through sharing with your neighbors and waste-flow redirection.

GETTING STARTED ACTION CARDS

- W1** | Organize a Neighborhood Swap
- W2** | Learn to Compost
- W3** | Create a Resource Log
- W4** | Organize a Neighborhood Fit-it Club
- W5** | Buy in Bulk

ORGANIZE NEIGHBORHOOD SWAP

HOW TO TAKE ACTION:

Organize a swap event to save money and reduce waste by exchanging unused items with your neighbors.

LEVEL:

-  Low Effort
-  Medium Effort
-  High Effort

TAGS:

-  Family-Friendly
-  Low Cost
-  Event

SEASON:



MORE INFORMATION:

Consider joining a buy-nothing group!
Examples of new or gently used items to swap:

- clothes
- tools
- kitchen gadgets
- toys
- school supplies

RELATES TO: F1, F4, W3, W5

RESOURCES:



LEARN TO COMPOST

HOW TO TAKE ACTION:

Collect food scraps and yard waste in an Ann Arbor city compost bin to return nutrients to the soil and reduce fertilizer use.

LEVEL:

- 1 Low Effort
- 2 Medium Effort
- 3 High Effort

TAGS:

-  Family-Friendly
-  Low Cost

SEASON:



MORE INFORMATION:

Composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions by reducing food waste in landfills. If the city does not service compost in your area, apply compost to a garden.

RELATES TO: F4, F5, G2

RESOURCES:

CREATE A RESOURCE LOG

HOW TO TAKE ACTION:

Create a shared digital log of neighborhood resources instead of buying new to save money and prevent waste! Resources might include tools, skills, or knowledge.

LEVEL:

- 1 Low Effort
- 2 Medium Effort
- 3 High Effort

TAGS:

 Low Cost

SEASON:



MORE INFORMATION:

Examples:

- taxes, cooking
- chainsaw, sewing machine
- carpentry, gardening, car maintenance

If you're looking for missing resources, check free online marketplaces! Make a neighborhood group chat to coordinate and update the log regularly.

RELATES TO: F5, W1, W4, G3

RESOURCES:

ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD FIX-IT CLUB

HOW TO TAKE ACTION:

Connect with neighbors to repair items and learn new skills. Schedule a regular meeting time that works for everyone.

LEVEL:

- 1 Low Effort
- 2 Medium Effort
- 3 High Effort

TAGS:

-  Family-Friendly
-  Low Cost
-  Event

SEASON:



MORE INFORMATION:

Fix-it club activities might include:

- mending clothes
- repairing bikes, shoes, or furniture
- technology troubleshooting

Use old materials to create art or build new things!

RELATES TO: W3

RESOURCES:

BUY IN BULK

HOW TO TAKE ACTION:

Coordinate with neighbors to purchase food or supplies in bulk to reduce packaging waste and save time and money. Carpool together and divide goods afterwards.

LEVEL:

- 1 Low Effort
- 2 Medium Effort
- 3 High Effort

TAGS:

-  Family-Friendly
-  Medium Cost
-  Event

SEASON:



MORE INFORMATION:

Buy from a bulk store and bring your own containers!

Did you know?

About 36% of all plastics produced is used for packaging (United Nations).

RELATES TO: W1, F4, F2, F1

RESOURCES:

FOOD SECURITY

Food security is the ability to have reliable access to nutritious food. Connecting with your neighbors can strengthen food security for both you and your neighbors! This becomes especially important during emergency events and economic downturn.

FOOD SECURITY ACTION CARDS

- F1** | Sharing Food with Neighbors
- F2** | Visit Local Farmers Market
- F3** | Host a Harvest Party
- F4** | Stock Up on Food
- F5** | Plant a Garden

SHARING FOODS WITH NEIGHBORS

HOW TO TAKE ACTION:

Households often have surplus food, especially if they grow produce. Rather than throwing it away, help your neighbors by offering leftovers!

LEVEL:

1 Low Effort

2 Medium Effort

3 High Effort

TAGS:

 Family-Friendly

 Low Cost

SEASON:



MORE INFORMATION:

This reduces food waste, saves money, and builds community. Consider donating food to a food bank or shelter.

RELATES TO: F2-5, W1, W5, G1, G4

RESOURCES:

VISIT THE LOCAL FARMERS MARKET

HOW TO TAKE ACTION:

Connect to your local food system by getting to know local farmers and artisans. Shop for fresh produce and other products with your neighbors.

LEVEL:

- 1 Low Effort
- 2 Medium Effort
- 3 High Effort

TAGS:

-  Family-Friendly
-  Medium Cost

SEASON:



FUN FACTS

- The A2 Farmers Market is open year-round
- This supports the local economy and agriculture

RELATES TO: F2-5, W1, W5, G1, G4

RESOURCES:

HOST A HARVEST PARTY

HOW TO TAKE ACTION:

Cooking food for your neighbors is a great way to get to know each other, share recipes, and learn about each others' skills/strengths.

LEVEL:

1 Low Effort

2 Medium Effort

3 High Effort

TAGS:

 Family-Friendly

 Medium Cost

 Event

SEASON:



MORE INFORMATION:

A potluck is a great place to share tips for how to reduce food waste and make the most of your resources.

- Conversation starters:
 - Favorite recipe/meal
 - What does food mean to you?
 - What is your vision for our neighborhood?

RELATES TO: F1, F2, F5, W5, G1

RESOURCES:

STOCK UP ON FOOD

HOW TO TAKE ACTION:

Pick a day to preserve food by canning, pickling, and drying to prevent food waste and prepare for emergencies.

LEVEL:

1 Low Effort

2 Medium Effort

3 High Effort

TAGS:

 Family-Friendly

 Medium Cost

SEASON:



MORE INFORMATION:

Host an annual event where neighbors use food from the emergency food supply that is about to expire! Be sure to encourage others to replenish the food stock.

Canning makes your food nonperishable. Consider shopping at local thrift stores for mason jars! Make sure they are in good condition.

RELATES TO: F1, F2, F5, W1, W2, W5

RESOURCES:

PLANT A GARDEN

HOW TO TAKE ACTION:

Gardens can be anywhere! Reuse old items as garden beds (old tires, wood bins, bathtubs, etc.) and consider a vertical garden by stacking pots/containers to maximize space.

LEVEL:

1 Low Effort

2 Medium Effort

3 High Effort

TAGS:

 Family-Friendly

 Medium Cost

SEASON:



MORE INFORMATION:

Gardens can increase well-being and provide food and access to nature. They are also an opportunity to share skills and information while building community.

RELATES TO: F1, F3, F4, W2, W3, G4

RESOURCES: