Waste – Launch Newsletter

Welcome to the Waste People Power Challenge! Over the next **[enter number]** weeks, **[enter organization name]** will be focusing our efforts on waste management.   There are many fun events and activities that you can complete to earn points and drive positive environmental action at home, at work, and in your community. **[If your organization will be providing prizes for participation, insert that information here]**. Your sustainability champion is **[insert name]**; contact them with any questions.

LEARN MORE

Title: Webinar Watch Party: Waste Leaders Training

Subtitle: Join your colleagues on **[INSERT DATE AND TIME]**for a watch party!

This webinar will provide an overview of key waste management issues, including current waste issues in Ontario, why acceptable items can vary depending on municipality, and tips on managing waste at home and in the workplace.

Register here **[INSERT LINK]**

UPCOMING EVENT

Title: Sewing Repair Skills Class

According to the Recycling Council of Ontario, the average Canadian throws away 81 pounds of textile annually, most of which can be recycled or reused. By learning how to sew and repair your favorite articles of clothing, less textiles will end up in landfills.

Join us on **[INSERT DATE AND TIME]**for a virtual sewing repair skills class hosted by **[INSERT NAME OF ORGANIZATION AND SESSION DESCRIPTION].**

Register here **[INSERT LINK]**

TAKE ACTION

To earn points, send pictures of yourself completing the following activities to **[insert champion name and contact details]**. Each activity is worth 50 points, and can be completed 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, like 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.

Title: SDG Goal #1: No Poverty

Subtitle: End poverty in all its forms, everywhere

According to the United Nations, 10% of the world's population lives in extreme poverty (less than $1.90 US/day). While this is down from 36% in 1990, there is still a lot of work to be done to eradicate poverty in all its forms, especially considering new threats brought on by climate change, conflict and food insecurity, and COVID-19.

**Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPnZ43Q8GbY**

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

RESOURCES

* [**Material Exchange**](https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/your-needs/waste-management/material-exchange/) (Partners in Project Green program)
* [**Circular Economy Principles Could Help Businesses Face the Worst Recession Ever**](https://www.greenbiz.com/article/circular-economy-principles-could-help-businesses-face-worst-recession-ever) (article) - GreenBiz
* [**The Boom in Household Waste and What our Garbage Tells Us About the COVID Economy**](https://www.cbc.ca/radio/costofliving/household-waste-boom-covid-1.5728420) (article) - CBC News
* [**Love Food Hate Waste Canada**](https://lovefoodhatewaste.ca/) (organization)
* [**Out of Plastic**](https://plasticoceans.org/out-of-plastic/)(documentary) - CleanWave
* [**How Long Does Plastic Last**](https://plasticactioncentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/How-long-does-plastic-last-1.png) (infographic) - Plastic Action Centre
* [**Cities and Circular Economy for Food**](https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications/cities-and-circular-economy-for-food) (publication) - Ellen MacArthur Foundation
* [**Plastic Oceans Foundation Canada**](https://plasticoceans.ca/)(organization)