



## HOW TO BE AN AGENT OF CHANGE IN YOUR CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE

### **Project Ideas by Circle of Influence**

(Updated June 18, 2014)

#### Workplace

- Form office green team of 2-12 people.
- Conduct waste and energy audits to determine current best practices and areas for improvement.
- Set printers to default double-sided copying.
- Begin food waste collection.
- Initiate auto commute trip reduction program with incentives for bicycle or transit riders.
- Expand recycling to include plastic clamshells & tubs, plastic bags, styrofoam, cell phones, batteries, electronics. Eliminate trash cans at each work station.
- Increase use of reusable dishes, glasses, and utensils, and reduce use of disposable items.
- Establish room or closet for reusable office supplies and equipment.
- Establish CSA pickup at the workplace.
- Participate in City of Portland Bike Challenge.
- Purchase Go Box memberships (food-cart reusable containers) or purchase reusable containers for staff to use for to-go lunches.
- Hold annual challenges for energy reduction, waste reduction, or paper reduction and monitor progress.
- Switch to energy efficient lighting.
- Change purchasing habits, e.g., coffee/tea,/condiments (to reduce packaging), paper (to increase post-consumer content).
- Become Sustainability at Work certified.

#### School

- Pursue Green School certification.
- Conduct waste audit; increase recycling; hold competition for least trash; participate in Terracycle program or Recycle Bowl.
- Establish recycling systems for deposit bottles, printer cartridges, batteries, electronics; participate in Cartridges for Kids.
- Reduce cafeteria waste: eliminate disposables, hold silverware drive, recycle milk cartons; hold waste-free lunch days.
- Transition to waste-free events such as auctions and carnivals.
- Conduct recycling drive for styrofoam, athletic shoes, batteries, electronics, or X-mas tree lights.
- Organize Halloween costume swap, clothing swap, book swap.
- Purchase party packs for each classroom: durable plates, cups, and utensils.
- Form student nature club, green team, or Power Patrol (during school or after school).
- Establish food scrap composting offsite or onsite in worm bins.
- Conduct No-Idling Campaign targeting parent drop-off and pick-up .
- Organize “walking school buses” or “bike trains”.
- Build school vegetable garden; remove exotics and plant natives.
- Hold locker clean-out day; collect recyclables and reusables.
- Arrange for an energy audit; reduce lighting and plug-loads.

- Establish outdoor learning space.
- Sell water bottles with school logo, washable sandwich wraps, and durable lunch kits.
- Purchase bicycle racks and covered structures.

### **Neighborhood**

- Organize block party.
- Invite neighbors to a potluck or soup night; ask them to bring own eating utensils; maybe show sustainability movies; maybe have collection of batteries or a harvest exchange.
- Collect commitments for a pesticide-free block.
- Form a community garden; plant vegetables or natives in parking strips.
- Set up a depot for non-curb-side recyclables and take turns taking them to Far West Fibers.
- Form a directory of neighbors; include a directory of skills and tools to share; form a nextdoor.com site; Start a neighborhood newsletter.
- Start NWEI *Sense of Place* discussion group.
- Initiate invasive weed removal work parties.
- Host a Home Eco-Party or energy audit party; invite neighbors to order Energy Trust audit.
- Organize a Village Convergence project.
- Hold neighborhood-wide yard sale/free share.
- Establish a tool library.
- Hold an energy audit at home and invite neighbors to observe; invite neighbors to order Energy Trust audit.
- Organize a green garden tour.
- Organize a storm-drain labeling project.

### **Faith Community**

- Form sustainability team; create sustainability policy; meet with church committees to determine and implement sustainability goals.
- Build vegetable garden, plant natives, or construct bioswales on grounds
- Write Eco-tips for weekly bulletin.
- Reduce paper handouts; use 100% recycled paper.
- Have an energy audit and carry out recommendations; participate in Cool Congregations.
- Apply for Green Sanctuary or other accreditation from church organization.
- Improve recycling system through adding bins and better labeling.
- Eliminate use of disposables from coffee hour and other events.
- Create directory of skills or tools that can be shared with other congregation members.
- Create quarterly non-curb-side recycling event in church parking lot.
- Switch to green cleaning products.
- Develop curriculum for youth; hold Earth-care camp in summer.
- Recruit group to join food-buying club.

### **Living Complex**

- Form a green team or livability team
- Arrange for recycling containers to be placed on each floor.
- Work with management to establish food waste collection.
- Develop system whereby residents take turns transporting non-recyclable materials to Far West Fibers and hazardous materials to the transfer station.
- Hold “get-to-know-you” events and create directory.
- Host Home Eco-Party; distribute water saving kits.
- Work with management to get secure bike parking.

- Replace ornamental with edible landscaping.
- Work with management to increase energy efficiency through lighting, washers/driers, and heating/cooling; track electricity, natural gas, and water use and inform owners/tenants.
- Reduce water use by installing low-flow shower heads and adjusting irrigation schedule.

### **Professional Group**

- Connect with the industry governing body to:
  - Start sustainability awards
  - Arrange a speaker series (brown bag or more formal)
  - Create tools or standards that can be used by current firms
  - Form a Task Force to analyze industry
- Create sustainable events guidelines.

### **Community Group**

- Purchase public recycling bins for neighborhood commercial area.
- Plan waste-free event for non-profit.