

# SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Communities and neighborhoods are the building blocks of a great urban area. They are the real places of daily life where people come together, to network, to build relationships, and where a sense of identity and history is created. There are many actions Clevelanders can take to help support their neighborhoods, including volunteering, learning about how you can take climate action, and getting to know your neighbors!

Here are some ways you can practice sustainability and make a difference in your community:



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Plant and maintain energy saving trees to save energy and money
- Tell your neighbors or block club about Cleveland Energy\$aver and Cleveland Housing Network's Home Weatherization Program



## CLEAN ENERGY

- Promote government policies that support renewable energy
- Join your neighbors in starting a solar co-op, thereby reducing the cost of going solar on your home



## LOCAL FOOD

- Support local CSAs and farmers markets
- Join or start a school or community garden. Call Summer Sprout at 216-429-8200 for more information
- Attend Potluck in the Park, the annual citywide local foods potluck hosted by Vital Neighborhoods working group



## ZERO WASTE

- Make zero or reduced waste events the standard in your community
- Start a compost pile at your neighborhood community garden
- Join ZeroWasteNEO or Plastic Bag Reduction working groups
- Learn how to recycle properly in your community at [www.CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://www.CuyahogaRecycles.org)



## CLEAN WATER

- Install a rain garden in your neighborhood
- Organize a neighborhood rain barrel workshop
- Organize a beach or stream clean-up through Adopt-A-Beach
- Plan a picnic or day trip to one of the Cleveland Metroparks' lakefront parks and connect with Lake Erie



## TRANSPORTATION

- Organize a carpool
- Organize or join group bike rides; visit Bike Cleveland's event page
- Participate in Open Streets Cleveland events
- Host events in locations that are easily accessible by public transportation



## VIBRANT GREEN SPACE

- Join the Forest City Working Group
- Lead a Reimagining Cleveland Project, encouraging innovative land use projects that allow residents to acquire vacant lots
- Join or create a "friends of" group to adopt a park or greenspace and keep it litter-free



## VITAL NEIGHBORHOODS & PEOPLE



- Join a block club, the Vital Neighborhoods working group, or the Neighbor Up Network
- Learn how your neighborhood can take action with the Neighborhood Climate Action Toolkit
- Support the Cleveland Climate Action Fund or propose a neighborhood climate action project
- Talk to local schools about integrating sustainability into curriculum and their operations
- Participate in the Annual Sustainable Cleveland Summit
- Share Sustainable Cleveland events and actions on social media
- Encourage neighbors, especially the most vulnerable, to sign up for CodeRED Mass Notification System