



SUSTAINABILITY YOU CAN DO!



Sustainability is the idea that humans should make choices that ensure that the environment is safe now and in the future. Sustainability is good for people, too; we all need safe, clean, and healthy places to live.

The Milwaukee Public Museum understands that things like exhibits and programming aren't the only way we interact with our community; our sustainability initiatives can make our community greener and model good corporate behavior to other organizations. MPM's projects include our green roof, solar wall, and, most recently, our stormwater collection courtyard. You can read more about these projects and how they benefit the community by visiting us online at www.mpm.edu/green. Then, do some thinking, research, and planning about sustainability practices in your home and the community.

Remember, we may need to wait until the COVID-19 pandemic is over before starting certain green practices. Your adult will let you know which things are safe to do now and which things must wait.

- Make sure you understand which items can be recycled and what must go in the garbage. Sometimes the plastics can be confusing!
- With your adult, make a list of things you can do in the home to conserve or re-use items. It could include things like:

AT HOME



- Saving scrap paper and writing on both sides.
 - Identifying any leaky faucets allowing water to run down the drain and seeing if they can be repaired.
 - Repairing clothing rather than discarding it.
 - Purchasing items and clothing secondhand rather than brand-new.
 - Allowing washed clothing, towels, and sheets to air-dry rather than using the dryer.
 - Closing closet doors so your furnace doesn't need to heat those spaces.
- Identify some places you could ride your bike or take public transportation rather than using a car.

AT HOME CONTINUED

- Help your adult find foods at the grocery store that are produced in your state; transporting food shorter distances is better for the environment.
- If your health allows, try things like turning the heat down and wearing more clothing instead or leaving the air conditioning off in the summer.



IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



- Take a walk around your neighborhood. Do you see litter on the streets? If you do see litter, think about whether this is good or bad for your neighborhood. How does this make your neighborhood look? How might it affect places children can play, or animals?
- With your adult's help, research if your neighborhood has any efforts to do clean-up days. If one is coming up, ask your adult if you can participate.
- Are there any environmental organizations in your neighborhood that regularly plant trees? If so, ask your adult if you can participate.
- Does your neighborhood have a community garden? If so, you may want to learn more about gardening and consider getting a plot.



IN YOUR CITY OR STATE

- Do an internet search of news from your city or state about the environment. Is the news positive or negative for the environment? Who are the people involved? Are their actions protecting or harming the environment?
- With your adult's help, do some research on businesses and companies in your city. Do any businesses have programs to be more environmentally friendly? If so, what are they?
- Are there any lakes or rivers in your city? Are they safe and clean, or polluted? If they're polluted, do some research with your adult on why they're polluted.
- What are the laws in your city or state about polluting? Talk with your adult about whether these laws do a good job of protecting the environment.