

~ Sustainable Princeton's plans for sustainability ~

# STEPS TOWARDS A ZERO WASTE PRINCETON

## BEGINNER

For those just beginning to think about Zero Waste



Don't forget to BYoBag when shopping



Recycle 1's and 2's in recycling bins



Pack lunches in reusable containers and bags

## INTERMEDIATE

For those looking to step up their waste reduction game



Stop buying bottled water



Join the curbside organic waste program



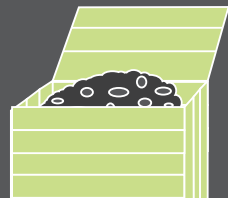
Shop garage sales and thrift stores before buying new

## ADVANCED

For those trying to incorporate Zero Waste principles into all aspects of their lives



Leave grass clippings and leaves on your lawn



Compost in your backyard



Join one of our local Community Supported Agriculture farms

## EXPERT

For those looking to advance the Zero Waste Movement beyond just themselves



Stop using disposable, single-use plastics



Encourage local restaurants or businesses to go Zero Waste



Host a Zero-Waste event to educate others

## Get Princeton to 50% by 2016

Imagine a Princeton where nothing is sent to landfill: where everything is recycled, reused or composted.

We can make this happen, and it all starts with the first step. Whether you're a beginner or an expert of waste reduction, here are some things you can do to help make Princeton a leader in the Zero Waste movement.

Let's start by reducing Princeton's landfill waste 50% by 2016.

## Did You Know?

At the current rate we produce waste, the landfill will be **full by approximately 2030:** after which we'd have to send our waste to another landfill that could be **several hundred miles away.**

Princeton is the **first** in the state of New Jersey to offer curbside organic waste pickup. In 2013, **450 tons** of organic waste were diverted from our landfill, saving the greenhouse gas equivalent of **driving over 260,000 miles in an average car,** or the emissions from **15 years of electricity use** for an average home.



to learn more about how to work towards Zero Waste, visit us at:  
[sustainableprinceton.org/residents-waste](http://sustainableprinceton.org/residents-waste)

# More Zero Waste Steps for Residents

## Beginner

### Make the switch from disposable to reusable

- Carry a reusable water bottle— everywhere!!!
- Buy a reusable coffee filter (NOT disposable Pods) OR compost paper filters!
- Don't use disposable air fresheners — consider buying a houseplant instead!

### Buy products with less packaging

- Bring your own bags to the produce section - \$ off at the register!!!
- Shop at the Princeton Farmers' Market on Thursday in Hinds Plaza or go to the Jersey Fresh website to find more markets

- Buy in bulk @ Whole Earth, Whole Foods or elsewhere
- Buy solid soap (Whole Earth sells lovely ones)

### Go Paperless

- Go to the Federal Trade Commission website to opt out of junk mail
- Use rags made from old clothes and towels— ban paper towels!
- File your taxes, buy tickets & pay bills electronically
- Print double sided

### Buy biodegradable bags at Ace Hardware or McCaffrey's for:

- Home garbage
- Curbside Organics program
- Pet waste

## Online Resources

### Mobile Apps:

- Mercer County's My Waste App
  - App that provides details about neighborhood waste collection
- iRecycle
  - App for finding local places to recycle various materials

### Websites:

- Princeton FreeCycle
  - Gifting group for free items for reuse and recycling
- Central NJ Craigslist
  - Listing service for selling and finding preowned items
- Earth 911
  - Offers online recycling resources

## Intermediate

### Go the extra mile – make your own, bring your own, reuse

- Liven up tap water with fruit instead of buying plastic soda bottles
- Stop buying plastic water bottles..period. BYOBottle!

### Bring your own mug to coffee shops. Small World Coffee, Terra Momo Bread Co., and others give discounts

### Recycle your hazardous waste and e-waste — see list below

### Buy seasonal fruits and vegetables

### Eliminate as many disposable products as possible from your household

- Use cloth napkins in the house
- Buy a battery charger and switch to rechargeable batteries

- Recycle or refill empty printer cartridges. Search for refillable ink cartridges online

### Repurpose or reuse

- Turn household paper into notepaper before recycling
- Reuse jelly jars, mailing envelopes, bubble wrap...
- Host a clothes, toy and sports equipment exchange at school or with friends!

## Local Resources

### Thrift Shops and Consignment

- Jane
  - 7 Spring St., Princeton
- Greene Street Consignment
  - 162 Nassau St., Princeton
- Nearly New Shop
  - 234 Nassau St. #1, Princeton
- Plato's Closet
  - 660 Nassau Park Blvd., Princeton

### Recycle More through

- Whole Foods
- Green Design
- Princeton River Road Convenience Center
- Best Buy E-waste (computers, phones, etc)
- MCIA Hazardous Waste and E-Waste
- Princeton Computer Recycling

## Advanced

### Adopt a long-term mindset when shopping and buying products

- Avoid "Fast" fashion and buy products that are made to last
- Shop and eat only seasonal vegetables

### Make a veggie and herb garden plant a fruit tree

- Join a Community Supported Farm for fresh veggies
- Can and freeze foods for the winter
- Make your own cleaning products..vinegar plus anything does wonders!**

## Expert

### Get involved in or start a local zero waste campaign

- Volunteer at zero-waste events
- Host a zero waste pot luck for neighbors and friends
- Write a letter to the editor about importance of zero waste

- Encourage Princeton officials to support zero-waste policies
- Work with your child's school to organize zero-waste events
- Join Sustainable Princeton's waste committee!