

T O L E D O
LUCAS COUNTY
SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION

2016 Neighborhood Sustainability Toolkit

About the Toolkit

The Neighborhood Sustainability Toolkit is designed to function as a comprehensive collection of actions geared at increasing a neighborhood's sustainability **OR** as individual focus areas that a neighborhood can use to support existing neighborhood efforts. Each neighborhood is made up of unique individuals, each neighborhood has different needs, and each neighborhood has its own vision of what sustainability means to them. This toolkit is meant to direct interested citizens to local resources that can help them achieve their goals. The five steps of *Think, Plan, Act, Maintain, and Go Beyond* spark deeper thinking on how to embrace sustainability through a neighborhood lens and offer several no-cost/low-cost suggestions as well as more expensive undertakings.

Sustainability as a whole consists of many individual actions that together result in collective, large-scale impact. If there are things your neighborhood is already doing, has just started doing, or will be doing as a result of this toolkit, please share your experiences with us and your larger community.

With your input and feedback on what works for you, as well as what doesn't, we can improve the comprehensiveness and accuracy of this toolkit for use across the Toledo region.

Please visit our website at [LucasCountyGreen.com](https://www.lucascountygreen.com) to submit a brief description and pictures of your efforts!

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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Redirecting waste headed to landfills means a longer lifespan for our landfills with the added benefit of giving a second life to our waste.



Resources

What can be recycled:

Find your town, co.lucas.oh.us/index.aspx?NID=819

Where to take compost, recyclables, electronics, medicines, hazardous waste, yard waste, and etc.:

- ▶ Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful, co.lucas.oh.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/910
- ▶ Lucas County Solid Waste Management District, co.lucas.oh.us/index.aspx?nid=749

Where to get compost:

- ▶ Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful "Animal Manure," co.lucas.oh.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/910

Where to get recycled mulch:

- ▶ Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful "Yard Waste Drop-Off," co.lucas.oh.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/910

Where to take used materials/buy restored goods:

- ▶ Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity ReStore, mvhabitatrestore.org/donations.html
- ▶ Area thrift stores (Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc.)

1. Think. Are you recycling materials from all areas of your home (including items from bathrooms and your garage)? Are you great at recycling but don't use reusable shopping bags?

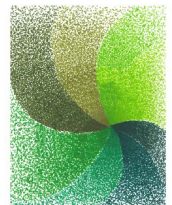
2. Plan. Examine areas in your home where recyclables could be collected. Consider using recycling containers for special events or parties. Contact [Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful](#) to request free recycling or trash containers for large gatherings.

3. Act. Place recycling bins in all areas of your home where recyclable materials are generated. Consider coordinating recycling drives at worship, school, or other community sites. Donate reusable materials to local charities and take unusual recyclables such as textiles, paint, electronics, etc. to recycling events.

4. Maintain. Share [Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful's Recycler's List](#) with neighbors, in newsletters, and on social media.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ Contact your local representative about desires for neighborhood-wide composting
- ▶ Organize a compost delivery with [GROWs](#) or [Lucas County Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
- ▶ Promote creative re-use through art and connect with [The Arts Commission](#)
- ▶ Make a neighborhood pledge to first reduce consumption before reusing and recycling



Manage Animals and Pests

Humanely managing animals and pests is essential to living agreeably with nature.



Resources

Who to call for lost or found animals, wildlife, and dead animal removal:

Humane Ohio, humaneohio.org/who_to_call.htm

Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat Community:

National Wildlife Foundation,
nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife.aspx

Purchase birdhouses, bat shelters, or butterfly houses:

Lucas County Soil & Water Conservation District,
co.lucas.oh.us/DocumentCenter/View/52908

Wildlife rehabilitation: Nature's Nursery,
419-877-0060 or natures-nursery.org

Best management practices:

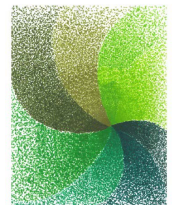
- ▶ Lucas County OSU Extension, lucas.osu.edu
- ▶ OSU Extension Ask an Expert or Master Gardener,
extension.osu.edu/ask-an-expert

Local beekeeping questions:

Maumee Valley Bee Keepers, goo.gl/xIURUc

Honey bee swarm removal: Bee Removal Source,
beeremovalsource.com/bee-removal-list/ohio

- 1. Think.** What animals and pests are an issue in your neighborhood? Talk to your neighbors to understand how they're currently dealing with issues.
- 2. Plan.** Identify best management practices recommended for your particular animal and pest concerns. Consult with [Lucas County OSU Extension](#) for additional tips.
- 3. Act.** Share resources for alternatives to managing pests. Keep [Natures's Nursery](#) and [Humane Ohio](#) in mind for how to deal with finding animals.
- 4. Maintain.** Create a landscape that naturally deters pests or offers a habitat that can coexist with your home.
- 5. Go Beyond.**
 - ▶ Know the difference between docile bees and more aggressive wasps. Bees are a key pollinator species that will likely not bother you.
 - ▶ Build habitats and use native plants that support pollinators and Ohio's local bird species.
 - ▶ Strengthen neighborhood groups to support and advocate for neighborhood-wide needs.



Landscape Naturally

Natural landscaping is caring for resources in a manner that supports local environmental systems while addressing human needs.



Resources

Find out what plants are native for your region:

- ▶ Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower, wildflower.org/plants
- ▶ TMACOG "Give Water a Hand" Tip Card #4, tmacog.org/Environment/Stormwater/storc_programs.htm
- ▶ Toledo Zoo: Wild Toledo, wildtoledo.org/native-prairie-habitat

Where to get native plants:

- ▶ Lucas County Soil and Water Conservation District Trees, Shrub, & Garden Sale, co.lucas.oh.us/index.aspx?nid=458
- ▶ Toledo Botanical Garden, Spring and Fall Plant Sale, toledogarden.org
- ▶ Wild Ones: Oak Openings Region Chapter, oakopenings.wildones.org/resources

Gardening assistance:

- ▶ Toledo GROWs, toledogarden.org/toledogrows
- ▶ Ask an OSU Extension Expert or Master Gardener, extension.osu.edu/ask-an-expert,
- ▶ Lucas County OSU Extension, lucas.osu.edu

Get your soil tested:

- ▶ Lucas County Soil and Water Conservation District, co.lucas.oh.us/index.aspx?nid=458
- ▶ OSU Extension, 419-578-6783 or extension.osu.edu

Share your experience on LucasCountyGreen.com !

1. Think. What does your ideal neighborhood yard look like? Could your neighborhood support a community garden?

2. Plan. Research what plants are native to your region and make the most sense for your landscape.

3. Act. Convert yards and vacant lots to native plants. Reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers and find alternatives to high maintenance grass lawns.

4. Maintain. Learn what is required to care for your landscape. Assign neighborhood duties to properly care for native plants in vacant lots.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ Advocate for increasing native plantings in your neighborhood, educate neighbors on the importance of native grasses and flowers.

Resources Continued

Install a rain garden with native plants:

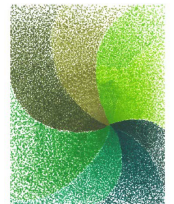
Rain Garden Initiative, raingardeninitiative.org

Alternative lawn pesticides and fertilizers:

- ▶ Beyond Pesticides, beyondpesticideohio.org
- ▶ TMACOG "Give Water A Hand" Tip Card #2, tmacog.org/Environment/Stormwater/storc_programs.htm

Tree management for the right of way:

City of Toledo requests related to public trees or stump removal, 419-936-2020 or toledo.oh.gov/services/public-service/parks,-recreation-forestry/forestry



T O L E D O
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Have a Beautiful and Functional Neighborhood

Ensuring our neighborhoods are welcoming and aesthetically pleasing can result in happier residents, decreased crime, and a supported community.



Resources

These resources are specific to City of Toledo residents. Those outside of Toledo should contact their appropriate jurisdictions.

Report non-emergency issues:

SeeClickFix phone app, en.seeclickfix.com/toledo

Report potholes: City of Toledo, 419-936-BUMP (2867)

Report code violations (illegal dumping, graffiti, vacant buildings, unsafe buildings, trash, high grass/weeds, parking on the grass, abandoned vehicles):

City of Toledo Dept. of Neighborhoods, 419-936-2020 or toledo.oh.gov/services/neighborhoods/code-enforcement

Free bulk trash pick up (once a month):

Republic, 419-936-2511

Learn more about home rehab programs, down payment assistance, vacant property registration, lead based paint hazard control:

City of Toledo Dept. of Neighborhoods, 419-245-1400 or toledo.oh.gov/services/neighborhoods/housing/programs

Find out who owns a lot:

AREIS, co.lucas.oh.us/index.aspx?NID=377

Share your experience on [LucasCountyGreen.com](https://lucascountygreen.com) !

1. Think. What are things you don't like seeing in your neighborhood? Is there too much litter?

2. Plan. Speak with your neighbors about how they'd like to see you neighborhood look.

3. Act. Determine what needs to be done and contact appropriate organizations to help. To purchase vacant land, reach out to the [Lucas County Land Bank](#) and [City of Toledo Division of Real Estate](#).

4. Maintain. Create a neighborhood management plan to care for new plantings, keep lots clean, report dumping, and share neighborhood concerns.

5. Go Beyond.

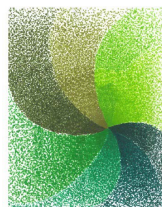
- ▶ Use native plantings for yard landscaping and vacant lots to attract pollinators and reduce maintenance requirements.
- ▶ Arrange neighborhood clean-up days to help neighbors with necessary household work.

Resources Continued

Report, acquire, and utilize vacant lots:

- ▶ Lucas County Land Bank, 419-213-4293 or co.lucas.oh.us/index.aspx?NID=2692
- ▶ City of Toledo Division of Real Estate, 419-245-1431 or toledo.oh.gov/services/development/division-of-real-estate

Find vacant lots most suitable for conversion to rain gardens, natural plantings, or wetlands: TMACOG, tmacog.org//Environment/Green_Infrastructure/green_infrastructure_vacantlandreuser.htm



T O L E D O
L U C A S C O U N T Y
S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y
C O M M I S S I O N

Reduce Air Pollution

Air pollution accounts for numerous deaths every year. Cleaner air is better for ourselves and our environment.



Resources

Tips for ensuring you have healthy air:

- ▶ American Lung Association, lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air
- ▶ US EPA, www3.epa.gov/airquality/peg_caa/reduce.html

Air quality forecasts:

- ▶ AirNow, airnow.gov
- ▶ Ohio EPA: AirOhio, epa.ohio.gov/dapc/airohio/index.aspx

Air pollutants to be concerned about:

Toledo Public Utilities, toledo.oh.gov/services/public-utilities/environmental-services/air/air-monitoring

Demolitions where asbestos is a concern: Ohio EPA, goo.gl/jxzDHA

Gas Cap Replacement program & Ozone Action map:

TMACOG, tmacog.org/AirQuality_home.htm

How you can Share-A-Ride: TMACOG, tmacog.org/share.htm

- 1. Think.** What is the air quality for your region?
- 2. Plan.** Know where most of your neighborhood air pollutants are coming from.
- 3. Act.** Walk or bike more than you drive. Consider bus or train travel for longer distances. Participate in Safe Routes to School and the Walking School Bus with [LiveWell](#).
- 4. Maintain.** Inspect your home for asbestos and encourage neighbors to do so as well. Set up a neighborhood carpool or organize a neighborhood walking group.
- 5. Go Beyond.**
 - ▶ Advocate for complete streets and connective sidewalks.
 - ▶ Using less energy reduces air pollution emitted from creating energy. Use energy efficient appliances and reduce energy use whenever possible.
 - ▶ Support legislation and governmental action to ensure air quality. Consider writing letters to your elected officials as a neighborhood on clean air policies you support.
 - ▶ Strengthen neighborhood groups to support and advocate for neighborhood-wide needs.



Preserve Water Quality

Contaminated water results in adverse health effects and increased water treatment costs.



Resources

Household septic system repairs program:

Lucas County Health Department,
lucascountyhealth.com/#/environmental/septic-and-well

Keep contaminants out of storm drains and ditches:

- ▶ TMACOG Water Quality Council, tmacog.org/enviro_body.htm
- ▶ TMACOG "Give Water a Hand" Tip Card #3 and #6, tmacog.org/Environment/Stormwater/storc_programs.htm
- ▶ Ohio EPA emergency spill number, 800-282-9378

How to dispose of hazardous waste:

Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful,
co.lucas.oh.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/910

Report an underground spill:

Ohio State Fire Marshal,
com.ohio.gov/fire/ReportSuspectedRelease.aspx

Toledo water quality monitor: City of Toledo Public Utilities (for City of Toledo residents), toledo.oh.gov/services/public-utilities/water-treatment/water-quality

If you have cloudy, odd-smelling, particle-filled tap water:

City of Toledo Quality Control Lab (for City of Toledo residents),
419-936-3049

If you have rusty tap water (that lasts more than 24 hours):

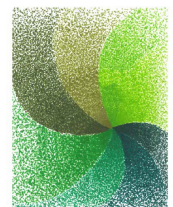
City of Toledo Water Emergency (for City of Toledo residents),
419-242-5040

Share your experience on [LucasCountyGreen.com](https://lucascountygreen.com) !

- 1. Think.** Where are there potential contaminants entering the water in your neighborhood? Consider household sewage treatment systems and storm drains.
- 2. Plan.** Have a neighborhood discussion on what items are considered water contaminants.
- 3. Act.** Create a campaign to spread awareness. See [TMACOG "Give Water a Hand" Tip Card #3 and #6](#) for more actions.
- 4. Maintain.** Report odd smelling or colored water to the [City of Toledo](#). Dispose of all hazardous waste properly by calling [Environmental Services](#) at 1-800-284-9107.
- 5. Go Beyond.**
 - ▶ Advocate for green stormwater infrastructure in your neighborhood with the help of [Toledo Waterways Initiative](#).
 - ▶ Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly on lawns. Clean up any spills properly. Opt for native, low maintenance plantings to further reduce fertilizer and pesticide use.
 - ▶ Consult [TMACOG's green infrastructure mapping tool](#) for information on which vacant lots are most suitable for conversion to rain gardens, natural plantings, or wetlands.

Resources Continued

What you can do + additional resources:
Toledo Waterways Initiative,
toledowaterwaysinitiative.com/about/what-you-can-do



T O L E D O
L U C A S C O U N T Y
S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y
C O M M I S S I O N

Conserve Water



Using water efficiently ensures water sources remain viable for future generations.

Resources

Save money while saving water:

TMACOG "Give Water A Hand" Tip Card #1,
tmacog.org/Environment/Stormwater/storc_programs.htm

Install a rain garden: Rain Garden Initiative,
raingardeninitiative.org

Plant native plants:

See "Landscape Naturally" toolkit resource topic

Install efficient showerheads and faucet aerators:

Columbia Gas,
columbiagasohio.com/ways-to-save/simple-energy-solutions

Seek out WaterSense products: EPA WaterSense,
www3.epa.gov/watersense/products

Locate and repair household leaks:

- ▶ ExttoxNet, exttoxnet.orst.edu/faqs/safedrink/contam.htm
- ▶ EPA WaterSense, www3.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/howto.html

1. Think. Where are you using more water than might be needed? Appliances? Landscaping? Personal use?

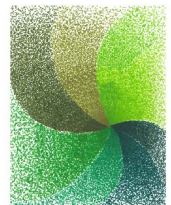
2. Plan. Identify ways you can reduce the water used in your household. Check for leaks (see [EPA WaterSense](#) for instructions).

3. Act. Incorporate water efficient appliances into your home by looking for the [WaterSense](#) label. Update to native, low-maintenance landscaping and shift your behavior to be more conscientious of the amount of water used for daily tasks.

4. Maintain. Stay up to date on maintenance with water saving appliances and landscaping.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ Incorporate rain barrels throughout the neighborhood.
- ▶ Create a neighborhood pledge to collectively use less water.
- ▶ Strengthen neighborhood groups to support and advocate for neighborhood-wide needs.



Collect the Rain

Collecting the rain is a method of conserving water and using water efficiently. When we use resources like rain gardens, that water is better filtered and can save on costly infrastructure repairs.



Resources

Build a rain barrel:

Lucas County Soil and Water Conservation District,
419-79-GREEN (4-7336) or
co.lucas.oh.us/index.aspx?nid=458

Buy a rain barrel:

Lucas County Soil and Water Conservation District,
419-79-GREEN (4-7336) or [co.lucas.oh.us/documents/119/
composter_rain_barrel_info.pdf](http://co.lucas.oh.us/documents/119/composter_rain_barrel_info.pdf)

Put in a rain garden:

Rain Garden Initiative, raingardeninitiative.org

Promote neighborhood green infrastructure:

- ▶ Toledo Waterways Initiative,
toledowaterwaysinitiative.com/about/what-you-can-do
- ▶ TMACOG "Give Water a Hand" Tip Card #6,
tmacog.org/Environment/Stormwater/storc_programs.htm

1. Think. What opportunities are there in your neighborhood for rain gardens, rain barrels, or other rain collection mechanisms?

2. Plan. Determine appropriate uses for communal rain collection stations. Learn more about green infrastructure and ways it could be incorporated into your neighborhood by connecting with [Toledo Waterways Initiative](#).

3. Act. Set up a neighborhood rain barrel make and take workshop with the [Lucas County Soil and Water Conservation District](#).

4. Maintain. Inspect and maintain rain barrels; set up plans to properly care for rain gardens and green infrastructure.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ Get involved with community planning efforts to advocate for green infrastructure.
- ▶ Install a rain barrel off of your home's downspouts and pledge neighborhood support to help fellow residents do the same.
- ▶ Strengthen neighborhood groups to support and advocate for neighborhood-wide needs.



Eat Locally

Food that is grown in your region requires fewer resources to transport, is fresher, and bolsters the local economy



Resources

Double Up Food Bucks: Toledo Farmers Market, toledofarmersmarket.com/double-up-food-bucks-program

Community Supported Agriculture:

- ▶ Northwest Ohio Food Council, northwestohiofoodcouncil.com/#/buy-local-food
- ▶ Local Harvest, localharvest.org/toledo-oh/csa

Farmers Markets:

- ▶ Toledo Farmers Market, toledofarmersmarket.com
- ▶ Northwest Ohio Food Council, northwestohiofoodcouncil.com/#/buy-local-food

Other local food vendors:

- ▶ Ohio Proud, ohioproud.org
- ▶ Toledo GROWs, toledogarden.org/toledogrows

Garden Assistance:

- ▶ Lucas County OSU Extension, lucas.osu.edu
- ▶ OSU Ask a Master Gardener, mastergardener.osu.edu/ask
 - ▶ Toledo GROWs, toledogarden.org/toledogrows
 - ▶ University Church Community Garden, theuniversitychurchtoledo.org/missions-and-outreach/community-garden
- ▶ CIFT, ciftinnovation.org/local-urban-food-systems

- 1. Think.** Where is the food you currently eat coming from? Are you taking advantage of local money-saving opportunities like Double Up Food Bucks?
- 2. Plan.** Find a farmers market that works with your schedule. Toledo has farmers markets seasonally on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturday. Consider whether you can plant and maintain your own garden or can join a community garden nearby.
- 3. Act.** Grow as much of your own produce as possible or buy locally whenever possible. Research programs like Double Up Food Bucks and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) options in your region.
- 4. Maintain.** Be aware and make as much of your diet local and seasonal as possible. See the Northwest Ohio Food Council for a calendar of what's in season.
- 5. Go Beyond.**

- ▶ Assess whether your neighborhood can support a community garden (possibly in a vacant lot). If it can, consider starting one and seek out Toledo GROWs for guidance.

Resources Continued

Community Gardens:

Toledo GROWs,
toledogarden.org/toledogrows/community-garden-listing

Where to get access to a commercial kitchen:

- ▶ CIFT, ciftinnovation.org/small-news-list/57-northwest-ohio-cooperative-kitchen
- ▶ Sofia Quintero Arts and Cultural Center, sqacc.org/nana-s-kitchen.html



Be Well

Good mental and physical health means we are more able to enjoy and care for ourselves, families, neighbors, and the environment



Resources

Find local services (social services, health care, food pantries, free clinics) : United Way 2-1-1, dial 2-1-1 or unitedwaytoledo.org/211

Mental health services:

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, www.lcmhrsb.oh.gov/service-providers

Choose healthy corner stores options:

Live Well Healthy Corner Stores, healthylucascounty.org/initiatives/healthy-eating/corner-stores

Double Up Food Bucks: Toledo Farmers Market, toledofarmersmarket.com/double-up-food-bucks-program

Have your home tested for environmental contaminants (lead, mold, asbestos, etc.):

- ▶ For City of Toledo residents, toledo.oh.gov/services/neighborhoods/housing/programs
- ▶ Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, lucascountyhealth.com/environmental-health/lead-prevention

Strive for safer products in your home and community:

EPA Safer Choice, epa.gov/saferchoice

How to dispose of hazardous waste:

Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful Recycler's List, co.lucas.oh.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/910

1. Think. What ways could you incorporate healthy living into your daily life? What are potential environmental contaminants that you and your neighbors are being exposed to?

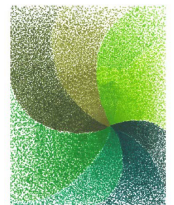
2. Plan. Adopt a new behavior aimed at increasing wellness every month. Research resources to help reduce negative impacts of these contaminants.

3. Act. Get your home tested for environmental contaminants. Take advantage of health clinics in your neighborhood. Replace home products with simpler ingredients (cleaning supplies, personal hygiene supplies, lawn fertilizers, etc.).

4. Maintain. Take care to not increase or exacerbate potential environmental contaminants. Make overall wellness a priority. Change what you can in your home, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ Organize a public health clinic in your neighborhood. Contact the [Toledo-Lucas County Health Department](#) for assistance.
- ▶ Do what you can to avoid adding to potentially contaminated areas. Use and purchase products in your home that are safe to use in any situation for people of all ages.
- ▶ Advocate for neighborhood-wide testing of environmental contaminants.



Engage with the Outdoors

Being outside is good for your mental health, has numerous educational opportunities, and increases an appreciation for our environment.



Resources

Where to find parks in the greater Toledo region:

- ▶ City of Toledo parks, 419-936-2875 or toledo.oh.gov/services/public-service/parks,-recreation-forestry/parks
 - ▶ Olander Park, olanderpark.com
 - ▶ Toledo Botanical Garden, toledogarden.org
 - ▶ Black Swamp Conservancy, blackswamp.org
 - ▶ Black Swamp Bird Observatory, bsbo.org
 - ▶ Metroparks, metroparkstoledo.com/explore-your-parks

Outdoor education programs:

- ▶ Metroparks, metroparkstoledo.com/discover/special-events-and-programs
 - ▶ Olander Park, olanderpark.com/programs-events
 - ▶ YMCA & JCC Storer Camp, ymcatoledo.org/programs/ymca-storer-camps

Outdoor events:

- ▶ Metroparks, metroparkstoledo.com/discover/calendar
 - ▶ Olander Park, olanderpark.com/programs-events

Biking Resources:

TMACOG, tmacog.org/bike

1. Think. How could you do more of your typical activities outdoors? Find reasons to have potlucks, meetings, play days, or other events outside.

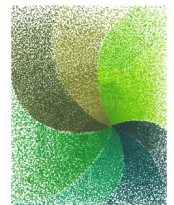
2. Plan. Get to know the parks and outdoor options in your region. Consider what the [MetroParks](#), [Olander Park](#), [City of Toledo Parks](#), and other organizations have to offer in park space. Consult their activity calendars for special upcoming events.

3. Act. Walk, bike, run, kayak, canoe, rollerblade, etc. outside. Take advantage of public outdoor spaces. Consider hosting your next neighborhood meeting outside.

4. Maintain. Support programs that make it safer and more accessible to be in outdoor environments. Volunteer with your neighbors to clean up green spaces and pick up pollution along roadways.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ Host gatherings at nearby parks.
- ▶ Organize a vacant lot clean up days with your neighbors.
- ▶ Join or create a neighborhood blockwatch to increase outdoor safety.
- ▶ Report broken streetlights to the [City of Toledo](#).
- ▶ Strengthen neighborhood groups to support and advocate for neighborhood-wide needs.



Use Public Transportation

Public transportation helps in reducing pollution and carbon emissions. Using physical modes of transport has the added health benefit of being a form of exercise



Resources

Take the bus or train locally:

- ▶ TARTA, tarta.com
- ▶ Amtrak, amtrak.com

Take the bus or train nationally: Wanderu, wanderu.com

Walk a safe route to school:

LiveWell, livewelltoledo.org/toledo-safe-routes-to-school

Share a ride:

TMACOG Share A Ride, 419-241-1919 or sharearide.org

Guaranteed Ride Home program:

TARTA, tarta.com/services/guaranteed-ride-home

Build a bike:

Toledo Bikes!, toledobikes.org/build-a-bike-class.html

Exchange volunteer time for a new bike:

Toledo Bikes!, toledobikes.org/volunteer.html

Maps of bike routes: TMACOG, tmacog.org/bike

Find a bike shop: TMACOG, tmacog.org/bike

1. Think. What opportunities does your neighborhood have for using public transportation? Are there ways you could take advantage of them more often?

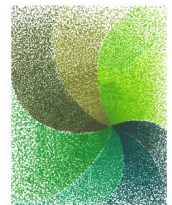
2. Plan. Participate in a walkability audit with [LiveWell](#). Talk with your neighbors about what works best for them when using public transportation, and see if there are ways the system could be improved. Consider the potential for a neighborhood car pooling program.

3. Act. Volunteer to be part of a block watch for safe routes to school and your neighborhood walking school bus with [LiveWell](#). Encourage neighborhood youth to volunteer at [Toledo Bikes!](#) and build their own bike while learning how to maintain it in the future.

4. Maintain. Learn about bike maintenance at [Toledo Bikes!](#) or a neighborhood bike shop. Support [LiveWell's](#) walking school bus program and advocate for more complete streets. Change the way you think about how you travel and be more conscious of public transportation options.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ Create a neighborhood pledge to public transportation when appropriate.
- ▶ Create a neighborhood walking, biking, running, etc. group to get to places without using any fossil fuels.
- ▶ When traveling long distances, use a service like [Wanderu](#) to find public transportation options.



Use Renewable Energy

Renewable energy refers to energy sources that can be replenished in our lifetime.



Resources

Working with your utility company:

- ▶ First Energy, firstenergycorp.com/content/fecorp/feconnect/ohioedison/retail/frequently_askedquestions.html
- ▶ PUCO, goo.gl/SQGZMg

Educational Resources: Green Energy Ohio, greenenergyoh.org/fact-sheets-on-renewable-energy-and-energy-efficiency

Going Solar:

- ▶ Map community solar potential with First Solar, firstsolar.com/Home/Solutions/Utility-Scale-Generation/eCAT
- ▶ Guide from Solar Power Rocks, solarpowerrocks.com/ohio

Energy incentives and rebates:

- ▶ Energy Star rebates, goo.gl/FhzoBF
- ▶ Federal Income Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency, energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits
- ▶ U.S. Dept. of Energy Tax Credits, Rebates, and Savings, energy.gov/savings/residential-renewable-energy-tax-credit
- ▶ Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy, dsireusa.org

1. Think. Where do you use energy most? What renewable energy options do you have?

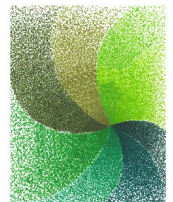
2. Plan. Talk with you neighbors and share ideas for incorporating renewable energy. They can be as big as solar panel installations on homes or as small as using small personal solar panels to charge your electronic devices.

3. Act. Consider community solar purchasing agreements. Use [First Solar's](#) community mapping tool and consult [Green Energy Ohio](#). Talk with [PUCO](#) or [First Energy](#) about your options for renewable energy. Take advantage of energy incentives or tax credits as they become available.

4. Maintain. Be energy conscious and convert to renewable energy sources as they become more available and affordable.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ Make a neighborhood-wide pledge to conserve energy and use renewable energy whenever possible.
- ▶ If you're already intending on buying a new car, consider a hybrid or electric vehicle.
- ▶ Strengthen neighborhood groups to support and advocate for neighborhood-wide needs.



Weatherize Your Home



Weatherizing your home saves money while increasing energy efficiency and reducing your overall global carbon footprint.

Resources

Weatherize your home and get an energy audit:

- ▶ Columbia Gas of Ohio, columbiagasohio.com/ways-to-save/home-performance-solutions
- ▶ NeighborWorks® TOLEDO REGION, nwtledo.org/#!/weatherization/c1uox
- ▶ Living Green, Saving Green, lucascountygreen.com

Look for Energy Star products:

EPA Energy Star, energystar.gov

Utility bill assistance programs:

- ▶ PUCO, goo.gl/SQGZMg
- ▶ First Energy, firstenergycorp.com/content/customer/help/billingpayments/assistance_serviceprogram.html gdaf

1. Think. Where are there inefficiencies and air leaks in your home? Are you using the most energy efficient products in your home?

2. Plan. Consult [Living Green, Saving Green](#) to see if you qualify for the [Columbia Gas](#) of Ohio Home Performance Solutions Program or the [NeighborWorks® TOLEDO REGION](#) Columbia Gas of Ohio WarmChoice® program.

3. Act. Collaborate with neighbors to complete recommended home improvements. Buying raw materials in bulk and using volunteer labor when possible can immensely cut costs.

4. Maintain. Keep your home improvements up to date. Always choose more efficient products when appliances need updated.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ Create a neighborhood action group to maintain and update homes that need additional weatherization services.
- ▶ Document your energy savings and share your discoveries with your neighbors. Spread awareness around the benefits of weatherizing homes in your neighborhood.
- ▶ Strengthen neighborhood groups to support and advocate for neighborhood-wide needs.



Be Part of a Green Economy

Businesses that support sustainability can result in better treated employees, responsibly produced products, and a more equitable distribution of money.



Resources

Support green businesses:

- ▶ Sustainable Business Recognition Program, lucascountygreen.com/sustainable-business-map.html
- ▶ Toledo Choose Local, toledochooselocal.memberlodge.com

Small business development resources:

- ▶ Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, toledochamber.com/business-development-resources.html
- ▶ Small Business Development Center, toledochamber.com/small-business-development-center.html

Get recognized as a sustainable business:

- Sustainable Business Recognition Program, lucascountygreen.com/sustainable-businesses.html

Green jobs:

- ▶ Ohio Energy Jobs, ohioenergypathways.org
- ▶ Ohio Environmental Council, ohioenvironmentalcouncil.org/careers
- ▶ Green Jobs Network, ohio.greenjobs.net

1. Think. What ways could you incorporate sustainability into your current job and purchasing habits?

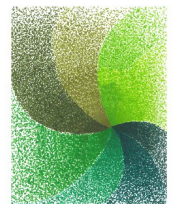
2. Plan. Identify opportunities to buy materials from green businesses within your neighborhood.

3. Act. Support locally owned businesses when possible. If you are a locally owned business, get certified by the [Sustainable Business Recognition Program](#) and promote your practices.

4. Maintain. Think critically when choosing where to purchase goods and vote with your dollar. Money you spend locally stays in the community and supports local business owners.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ Set up a neighborhood-based vacant lot mowing program with the [City of Toledo Department of Public Service](#).
- ▶ Research time shares and set up a bartering system for an exchange of local services.
- ▶ Support or launch buy local campaigns.
- ▶ Research and consider establishing a community tool lending library.
- ▶ Strengthen neighborhood groups to support and advocate for neighborhood-wide needs.



Get Involved

Volunteering strengthens communities. Utilizing volunteer power allows individuals to engage with their neighborhood or be exposed and learn about a new neighborhood.



Resources

Arts and cultural directories:

- ▶ The Arts Commission, theartscommission.org/directories
- ▶ Toledo Museum, toledomuseum.org/about/tacl

Volunteer: United Way volunteer directory, unitedwaytoledo.org/partnervolunteering

Recruit volunteers for an event: United Way volunteer recruitment, unitedwaytoledo.org/volunteer

Neighborhood directory: 2014 City of Toledo Neighborhood Directory, toledo.oh.gov/media/137093/2014-City-of-Toledo-Neighborhood-Directory.pdf

1. Think. Do you have time you'd like to donate to a cause that interests you? Could your neighborhood use help from a team of volunteers?

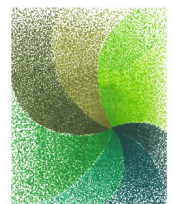
2. Plan. Identify your neighborhoods needs. Determine what can be accomplished by mobilizing residents and what activities would be helpful to have volunteers contribute. Consider ways the neighborhood might be able to volunteer for other projects that contribute to improving the neighborhood.

3. Act. Set up an event that will require extra volunteers. Publicize the opportunity and make sure things are organized for volunteers to jump in and contribute on volunteer day. Contact volunteer groups the neighborhood is interested in collaborating with and recruit residents to participate in any activities.

4. Maintain. Maintain a good relationship with the groups that come into the neighborhood to volunteer and groups the neighborhood volunteers with. These relationships could be utilized for multiple years.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ See the [art and cultural directories](#) for groups to get involved with and invite to your neighborhood.
- ▶ Utilize [United Way's](#) educational resources about how to manage volunteers.
- ▶ Strengthen neighborhood groups to support and advocate for neighborhood-wide needs.



Celebrate Your Space

Artwork and a celebration of various cultures can strengthen a community and provide opportunities for community appreciation.



Resources

Art programming for community members:

The Arts Commission,
theartscommission.org/programs/programs-overview

Art in public places:

- ▶ Find vacant lots most suitable for rain gardens,
tmacog.org/Environment/Green_Infrastructure/green_infrastructure_vacantlandreuser.htm
- ▶ The Arts Commission, theartscommission.org/module-positions/about-art-in-public-places-app

Toledo Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture:

The Arts Commission,
theartscommission.org/images/documents/Strategic_Plan/TSPACR_2015Plan_6_2.compressed.pdf

Arts and culture directories:

- ▶ The Arts Commission,
theartscommission.org/directories
- ▶ Toledo Museum,
toledomuseum.org/about/tacl

Neighborhood directory: 2014 City of Toledo Neighborhood Directory, toledo.oh.gov/media/137093/2014-City-of-Toledo-Neighborhood-Directory.pdf

1. Think. How do you want your neighborhood to look? What does art mean to you, and how does it show up in your neighborhood?

2. Plan. Collaborate with The Arts Commission to create a plan for art in your neighborhood. This could range from murals to park designs to vacant lot clean ups.

3. Act. Start incorporating creativity into your daily life. Get involved with arts and culture organizations and make the extra effort to support pleasing designs in your neighborhood.

4. Maintain. Read and get involved with the Toledo Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture. Create lasting changes and maintain the quality of art projects for years to come.

5. Go Beyond.

- ▶ Create a public art installation that reflects your neighborhood. Contact The Arts Commission for assistance.
- ▶ Use community-based artists and neighborhood contributions to design your artwork.
- ▶ Identify ways you could be making more use of vacant lots. Determine how they could enhance the community.
- ▶ Strengthen neighborhood groups to support and advocate for neighborhood-wide needs.

