

Sustainable Southfield News and Updates

Environmental Awareness Month

September marks the beginning of a number of climate action and sustainability initiatives. From World Cleanup Day on September 16th, to Zero Emissions Day on September 21st. September 4th marks the beginning of Zero Waste Week. It is a campaign that encourages the increase of recycling and repurposing waste, which in turn, will reduce the amount of waste produced. This is followed by Recycle Awareness Week from September 18th – September 24th. This is a national effort to promote recycling practices, educate the public, and get them engaged in the process. The more people who participate, the cleaner Southfield will be.

Reducing the amount of waste that we produce on an individual basis begins with our own small choices that eventually lead to larger, positive outcomes. Understanding how your actions impact the environment is key in beginning to reduce your own impact. For example, -choosing the option at checkout to have your order delivered a day or two later to help reduce the number of boxes. You can repurpose an old Bluetooth speaker as a candy dispenser. Get creative!

Composting is another great way to help reduce your waste. By composting your food and yard waste, you save it from being sent to a landfill, taking up space, and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Not only is composting great for reducing waste, but it also has the added benefit of being great for soil enrichment, returning nutrients to the ground, and it is a hobby that will be sure to make your inner-gardener happy.

The City of Southfield partners with the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, (RRRASOC), to help the city with its recycling needs. The local RRRASOC facility is located at the corner of Evergreen and 8 Mile Road. You are able to drop off recyclable items such as plastics and cardboard. Currently, RRRASOC is consulting with the City as it develops its Climate Action Plan regarding material management practices and processes For more information on recycling or what you can do to help reduce your waste contribution, go to www.rrrasoc.org.



Did you know?

- The Pacific Garbage Patch that floats in the waters between Hawaii and California is estimated to be twice the size of Texas, which is three times the size of France!
- Glass containers can be recycled an infinite amount of times without losing its original quality.
- Recycling 1 ton of paper saves around 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, and 463 gallons of oil.
- Paper takes around 2-5 months to decompose naturally, however, in landfills, paper does not decompose at all due to a lack of oxygen.
- The amount of CO₂ emissions generated in producing a pound of beef is more than what driving a car 75 miles generates.



(Credit: Quest Management Group)



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