

# What are your neighbors up to?

## Sharing experiences about recycling and waste prevention

Provided by your Recycling Block Captain, Spring 2015. More guides at <http://tiny.cc/wpatcapt>.

For this quarter's handout, we're introducing you to your neighbors and what they are doing to reduce waste.

They are all Recycling Block Captains (who distribute handouts to their neighbors 3-4 times per year) and/or Area Coordinators (captains themselves who coordinate other captains in their ward). Want to join their ranks? Learn more and sign-up at <http://tiny.cc/wpatcapt>.

### Pat Smythe, Area Coordinator | WARD 1



**Her challenge:** I find it hard to resist the pre-washed mixed greens that are offered in the large plastic containers that no longer recycle. I try to buy fresh mixed lettuce in bulk, or buy heads of lettuce.

**Her tip:** Think about your initial purchases - how are they packaged and is it recyclable? Can it be purchased in bulk in reusable containers?

### Marge Stevens, Area Coordinator | WARD 6



**Why she recycles:** I recycle to reduce the mining of metal ore or cutting down of trees; to save electricity and water; and to minimize landfill waste.

**Her tip:** My big tip is to always recycle any kind of metal - so many resources are used in the production of new metals.

### Amy Becker, Area Coordinator | WARD 2



**Why she recycles:** I don't like to see things thrown away. I like to see a way to repurpose the item, or make it into something else we can use.

**Her tip:** When cleaning plastic bags to go into soft plastic recycling, rinse bag out with water, and shake out to dry. When hanging it to dry, stick a magnet up on the fridge, and just hang from there. Always hang it with the opening up, it actually dries much quicker that way.

### Cindy Scott, Area Coordinator | WARD 7



**Her challenge:** Wanting to interest and educate others about the value and ease of recycling and reducing waste. I took the Master Recycler class and have been able to pass on info as a Block Captain.

**Why she recycles:** We can contribute to leaving this earth a better place for future generations. It can be accomplished with a small amount of daily individual attention and effort by all of us. Living in a community with curbside recycling makes it so easy and doable.

### Aaron Lesan, Block Captain | WARD 3



**His tips:** For waste reduction, it's mindfulness. Do I really need a new \_\_\_\_\_? Can I repurpose this?

As for recycling, create a place for it! I have set up bags, boxes or containers for many of the things I recycle, like plastic bags, batteries, corks, and bottle caps. If it has a home in your home, you'll be much more likely to recycle it than toss it in the trash.

### Nancy Erwin, Area Coordinator | WARD 8



**Why she recycles:** We only have limited space on this earth and in our landfills so I first try to reduce, reuse and then recycle what I can when possible. I don't feel we can continue as we have always done and expect there to be space for our waste.

**Her tip:** If all you can do is the "basics" (primarily commingle and glass) that is ok. Do more if possible.

### Christine Stillger, Area Coordinator | WARD 4



**Her challenge:** Combating my inner-sloth - not giving into the convenience of pre-packaged items. I remedy this by planning "buy in bulk" shopping trips a few times a month. I know it will take more time, but it's O.K. because I've planned it that way.

**Why she recycles:** I want to leave as small a footprint as possible on this earth, and I prefer that footprint not be measured by the amount of waste I leave behind.

### Dawn Marie Gaid, Area Coordinator | WARD 9



**Common Q she gets:** There's a misconception that just because something has a recycling symbol on it, it can be recycled - that's not always true.

**Her challenge:** It took me a while to embrace food composting. Like many people I had to overcome the "ick" factor associated with the collection of food scraps. I purchased an attractive composting can that looks great on the countertop, which keeps composting top-of-mind/improves my use.

### Brooke Kaye, Area Coordinator | WARD 5



**Her challenge:** Figuring out a good way of getting soft plastics clean and dry for reuse or recycling without making our house look like a plastic tornado came through. I finally found a rack that fits in our pantry. It's hidden from view, but still easy to access, and doubles as a hanger for aprons and a flyswatter.

**Her tip:** Buy food in bulk in re-purposed and reusable containers. It's amazing to prepare a meal for a family and not have anything go into the trash, or even the recycling bin!

### Tru Denton, Area Coordinator | OUTSIDE CITY

**Why she recycles:** We live on a beautiful planet, which I think is a wonderful gift from our Creator. We should appreciate this gift and take care of it. Recycling is one way to accomplish this.

**Her tip:** Keep a sealable container next to the kitchen sink to hold your food scraps. I use a large yogurt container that I painted red to match my kitchen. Kitchen waste is great to use in the garden or it can be placed in the compost/yard cart.