

WASTE & WATER

Local actions can make a big difference in how waste and water are handled.

These action cards provide ways for you and your neighbours to reduce waste, share resources and conserve water.

**CHANGE
FOR CLIMATE**

Edmonton

Buy in Bulk



WHY TAKE ACTION?

While buying too much on your own can be wasteful, buying in bulk can work well when you share with others. Benefits include reducing packaging waste, plus saving money, time and fuel by making fewer trips to the store.


LEVEL:

1 Low Effort



TAGS:

 Low Cost

 Bulk Buy

 Event


SEASON:



2025

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Bring your own containers to buy goods from a bulk or refill shop and share your purchases with your neighbours. Carpool or pick up supplies for each other.

Host regular meet-ups to restock and divide supplies among neighbours. Share tips to reduce food waste. 

Buy locally to reduce your travel and support businesses in your neighbourhood.

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **F3** | Share Food with Neighbours

Learn How to Compost



WHY TAKE ACTION?

Compost is a good source of nutrients for food and flower gardens and reduces the need for commercial fertilizers. Composting limits greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the amount of food and garden waste that is transported to and buried in a landfill.

LEVEL:

1 Low Effort



TAGS:


 Low Cost


 Family Friendly

SEASON:



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Create a community compost system. Encourage neighbours to participate and use the compost generated. Apply to be a Master Composter Recycler and become an advocate for waste reduction. Teach your neighbours “what goes where” and how to compost at home. 

If composting is not suitable for your location, learn how to use the **City Food Scraps Cart** system. Help neighbours who may be unfamiliar with the program. 

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **N4** | Use Your Leaves
- **F4** | Grow Plants to Eat

Install a Rain Barrel



WHY TAKE ACTION?

A rain barrel can reduce the amount of water that flows onto your property and can provide free water for use in your yard.

LEVEL:



2 Mid Effort



TAGS:



Bulk Buy




Event

SEASON:



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Buy rain barrels and have an event to set them up. Put the rain barrels near a garden or in a location your neighbours can access for shared use. Connect a hose to direct overflow away from building foundations. 

Set up rain barrels in time to collect excess rain in spring, for use during the drier days of summer.

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **N2** | Plant a Garden
- **F4** | Grow Plants to Eat
- **P8** | Get Ready for Rainfall & Flooding

Plan a Swap



WHY TAKE ACTION?

A neighbourhood swap is an opportunity to gather unused items and trade them for things you need or like. Save money by exchanging goods with your neighbours. Avoid throwing away items that may benefit someone else.

LEVEL:

1 Low Effort



TAGS:

 Low Cost


 Event

 Family Friendly

SEASON:



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Organize a swap event with your neighbours to trade things like clothing, books, toys, household items and more. Leftover items can be taken to a donation centre. 

Set up a spot in a common area for neighbours to regularly drop off items to be shared or donated.

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **N5** | Start a Seed Exchange or Library
- **F5** | Host a Harvest Party or Potluck
- **P12** | Create a Tool Library

Assess for Home Flooding



WHY TAKE ACTION?

Climate projections show that Edmonton can expect more heavy rainfall leading to overland flooding. Home flooding causes significant damage and stress. Neighbours can work together to make sure that everyone is prepared.

LEVEL:

**3**

High Effort

TAGS:



Event


SEASON:



2025

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Talk to neighbours about the potential damages of heavy rainfall and how to prepare. Make sure yards slope away from buildings. Clear eavestroughs and confirm sump pumps and backwater valves are working. Store basement belongings in waterproof bins and confirm insurance is up-to-date.

Contact EPCOR to book a free flood prevention inspection. 

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **W8** | Install a Rain Garden
- **P8** | Get Ready for Rainfall & Flooding

Start a Fix-it Club



WHY TAKE ACTION?

A fix-it club allows you to learn new skills, reduce waste and connect with neighbours.

LEVEL:



3 High Effort

TAGS:



Low Cost



Event




Family
Friendly

SEASON:



2025

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Create a regular meeting time and place in your neighbourhood for people to come together to share knowledge, complete repairs and use waste products to build new items, or even art. 

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **P12** | Create a Tool Library
- **W4** | Plan a Swap
- **W7** | Start a Repair Shed

W6 | edmonton.ca/climateneighbours

Edmonton

Start a Repair Shed



WHY TAKE ACTION?

Working together on projects and repairs can help you to save money, reduce waste and get to know your neighbours. A repair shed can be someone's garage or a shared space that has tools and other resources for everyone to use.

LEVEL:


3

High Effort

TAGS:




Event

SEASON:



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Find a space where neighbours can gather and work together to repair items. Spaces like an unused shed can work well. Work together to fix it up as an area for repairs. 

Host workshops and share skills with neighbours to learn how to maintain bikes, repair household items or build equipment for local gardens.

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **P12** | Create a Tool Library
- **N2** | Plant a Garden
- **W6** | Start a Fix-it Club

Install a Rain Garden



WHY TAKE ACTION?

A rain garden is a sunken area planted with native shrubs and flowers that reduces water runoff by collecting rain and melted snow. Installing a rain garden can protect homes from water damage, reduce the need to mow and water a lawn, and increase biodiversity.

LEVEL:



3 High Effort

TAGS:




Event

SEASON:



2025

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Plan and install a rain garden with your neighbours. Check out resources available online to help you find the right location and guide you through the process. 

NEXT UP! This action works well with...

- **N2** | Plant a Garden
- **W3** | Install a Rain Barrel
- **W5** | Assess for Home Flooding

W8 | edmonton.ca/climateneighbours

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