

Do you live in a Condo / Apartment?

How to Green Your Condo / Apartment Building

Create a Green Team

- Set up a meeting with a group of interested residents and designate a “Green Team” or “Green Leader” to oversee the environmental impact of your building’s policies and practices.
- Meet with your building HOA or Board and Building Manager or owner.
- Meet with a “Green Team” from another condo / apartment building who is already established.
- Communicate suggestions and updates to policies or procedures through posters, bulletin boards, building newsletters and/or emails.
- For new policies try pilot programs as they are easier to get approved than permanent changes.

Party / Event Policies

- Pre-plan any building parties or gatherings early to reduce waste and minimize the carbon footprint of the event.
- Reduce or limit the use of plastic items, such as; table clothes silverware, glasses and plates. If water bottles absolutely must be used, recycle them after use. Try to use reusable glasses or water bottles.
- Purchase materials that can be consumed, reused, recycled or composted.
- Recycle all items that can be recycled through your building's provider.
- Pair every waste can with a recycling bin with clear signage indicating what goes where.
- Consider the packaging and transportation impact before buying or ordering food items.
- Provide before-the-event communications and at-the-event signage to clearly identify the low waste efforts and protocol.

Building Maintenance

- Review current pest control policies and practices. Look for alternative non-toxic methods, or use a service that uses non-toxic methods.
- Review current landscaping / grounds keeping products and practices;
 - Add native plants that require less water and fertilizers, and provide habitat.
 - Eliminate use of pesticides or herbicides.
 - Eliminate use of gas powered lawn equipment; leaf blowers, mowers and edgers.

Reduce Waste

- Review current recycling programs for their effectiveness and ease for residents. If your building does not currently recycle;
 - Contact your waste hauler to see if they also provide recycling services.
 - Look for locations to place recycling bins for ease of use of residents.
- Incorporate composting to your waste reduction plan;
 - See information on “Can you compost in a Condo / Apartment” sheet.
 - Have someone come in to do a presentation on why it is important and / or do a pilot program.
- Post information and/or provide handout on where you can recycle items not accepted by your waste / recycle provider, or provide areas for collection of these and a designated person to drop them off at their appropriate location.
- When purchasing paper products for office / common spaces / individual units, purchase those with a high recycled content. (Many other types of products are also available with recycled content too, so always check for these options.)