

ZERO WASTE

Theme: Gatherings



DORVAL

July-August 2021

ZERO WASTE BACKGROUND

The City of Dorval is pleased to announce that it will sponsor a city-wide Zero Waste challenge for the rest of 2021! Since the start of the pandemic, many people have shifted their focus inward to their homes and immediate communities. That makes this the perfect time to examine our own habits and lifestyles, and reset our intentions.

To be clear, the term “zero waste” is only a shorthand term for a global waste reduction strategy. It is not expected that the City and its citizens will actually be able to reduce waste generation down to zero. We can, however, rethink what items we bring into our homes.

To help citizens reflect on what actions they can take, every few months, the City will be offering different activities and events under various environmental themes, as well as different levels of actions we can take individually. You are invited to participate in these themed challenges and activities, so that we can reduce our waste production as a community and achieve our Zero Waste targets!



WHAT THIS THEME IS ABOUT

One of the notable impacts of the pandemic has been the restrictions about seeing family and friends. With the province gradually opening up again, we're optimistic about being able to enjoy gatherings once more, whether it's a backyard BBQ or a socially-distanced picnic.

Often when we have gatherings, especially with larger groups, we tend to produce waste in a variety of forms. Disposable dishes, cutlery, cups, and napkins are unfortunately popular because of how inexpensive and convenient they are. Disposal of our waste, including food scraps, is harder to manage when we're a larger group or if you find yourself somewhere that doesn't offer different waste disposal options.

And of course, when we celebrate (whether for a specific holiday or a party), there are likely to be thematic decorations or gifts... and here too, we can benefit from reflecting on our consumption and waste production habits. The goal of this summer's Zero Waste challenge is to think about the different ways we generate waste when "partying" and to try to change our behaviours to reduce it!



ACTIVITIES

To help you with this theme, the City is pleased to be offering some educational sessions, as well as various exciting activities!

VIRTUAL SCREENING OF "ADDICTED TO PLASTIC"

July 10 and 11

A Canadian documentary on modern society's "addiction" to plastic: our prolific use of this product, its effects on the earth and on us, and where our unwanted plastic ends up.

Details here.



VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ABOUT ZERO WASTE GATHERINGS

Tuesday, July 20, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This online workshop given by the *Association Québécoise Zéro Déchet* is the perfect place to learn tips and tricks to make your next family gathering a zero waste one! **Details here.**

INFORMATION BOOTH

Throughout the summer

At Pine Beach Park

On a few occasions throughout the summer, volunteers from the Dorval Environment Committee will be on site at Pine Beach Park, at a kiosk to help clarify what waste goes where. Keep your eyes out for when this tent is set up and pass by to learn more!



HOUSEHOLD CHALLENGES

For each theme, we issue a challenge to adopt in order to reduce your waste, as part of the Zero Waste challenge. Each one focuses on a habit you can adopt and is offered in three levels: moderate, advanced, and expert!

Moderate impact: Whether you're hosting a gathering or are away from home attending one, manage your waste by properly sorting it. At home, help guests dispose of waste correctly with clearly labelled containers for organic waste and recycling. If you're somewhere that doesn't offer sorting of waste, arrange to bring your waste back home with you to sort it properly upon your return.

Advanced impact: Eliminate the use of disposable materials, including dishes, cups, and cutlery at gatherings. Provide reusable items for all your guests or invite them to bring their own!

Expert impact: Reimagine parties or gatherings to be "zero waste" – this can even be an educational theme for the celebration! Beyond avoiding any disposable materials, reflect on how decorations and even gift wrappings can be reusable. You can even go so far as to think about meaningful gifts that don't involve more "stuff" that may one day end up as waste!



RESOURCES

We have put together a list of ideas of how your gatherings can have lower waste production below, as well as some resources that may be helpful for other ideas! You can also reach out to the Dorval Environment Committee by email at **dorvalenviro@ville.dorval.qc.ca** if you have questions or suggestions. We would love to hear about the inspiring actions you have taken! By sharing your experiences and successes, others may be inspired to do the same!

- When it comes to **food**, try to avoid preparing too much, and either offer containers for guests to take leftovers in or invite them to bring their own. For beverages, instead of single-serving sized cans or bottles, try to use pitchers or larger drink dispensers. *You can also find helpful resources for managing organic waste in the May-June Zero Waste newsletter.*
- Single-use plastic or styrofoam **cutlery, dishes, and cups** can be avoided by either providing reusable supplies, asking guests to bring their own, or, at worst, choosing compostable alternatives. **Cloth napkins and tablecloths** are also a great option that can be washed and reused. *There are also several companies that specifically rent out tableware for larger gatherings, which can be found with an online search.*
- For **decorations**, there are many alternatives to purchasing single-use items. This includes renting higher-quality decorations, trading or sharing with friends, and making your own decorations using natural items that can later be composted. Another option is to make decorations with the family as an activity, and these items can be reused year after year as a new family tradition. *You can find plenty of ideas online, especially on sites like Pinterest!*
- Single-use paper **gift wrapping** can be replaced with reusable bags, packaging from other products (boxes, food tins, etc.), old newspaper, cloth wrapping, or the Japanese art of *furoshiki*.

- Instead of giving more “stuff” as a **gift**, here are some other ideas that can be offered as meaningful gifts:
 - Houseplant or outdoor plant for the garden
 - Tickets to an event or museum exhibit
 - Meal at a restaurant or a home-cooked meal
 - Enrollment in a class or workshop
 - Baked goods or assortment of food items from local vendors
 - Subscription to an online service (ex: music or video streaming, exercise class)
 - Making a donation or planting a tree in the recipient’s honour
 - Donating time to help with a household task or teaching someone a new skill

