

ZERO WASTE

Theme: Getting Ready For Winter



DORVAL

September-
October 2021

ZERO WASTE BACKGROUND

The City of Dorval is pleased to continue the city-wide Zero Waste challenge! 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

When we think about the waste we produce, material, visible waste is the most obvious, but it can take on other, less visible forms. Fuel, for example, is used to transport the goods we purchase, creating greenhouse gas emissions. While Quebec is fortunate to obtain much of its power from hydroelectricity, it is not, however, without an environmental cost.

As we venture into the fall season, many of us prepare for winter in different ways, both inside and outside the home. For this theme, we focus on the process of preparing for winter, particularly as it relates to being mindful of energy waste at home.



ACTIVITIES

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

WASTE DROP-OFF

Saturday, September 4, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In the Ballantyne Park parking lot (520 Bouchard Boulevard)

This collection allows residents to drop off household hazardous waste, information and communication technologies waste, and polystyrene articles. Document shredding will also be available. **Details here.**

CONFERENCE – WINTERIZING YOUR GARDEN

September 23, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., via Zoom

In partnership with the Dorval Horticultural and Ecological Society, this conference will share useful tips about preparing your garden for winter, keeping in mind the Zero Waste principals. **Details here.**

INTRODUCING DORVAL'S HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT KIT

October 19, at 7 p.m., at Dorval Library

Join us in person (or view the recording afterwards) to get acquainted with the new Home Energy Assessment Kit available for all Dorval residents to borrow from the Library. This kit contains a few tools to assess the energy efficiency of your home and, in this workshop, we will explain how each tool can be used.

Details here.

SPECIAL LEAF PICKUPS

Wednesdays from October 20 to November 17 inclusive

The City of Dorval will once again hold its leaf-pickup program as a way to improve its waste reduction effort and create compost. **Details here.**

ZERO WASTE QUIZ

October 22, at 7 p.m., via Zoom

Take part in this fun and informative quiz and test your “green” knowledge while learning many tips and tricks to reduce your energy consumption! **Details here.**

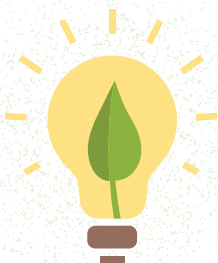
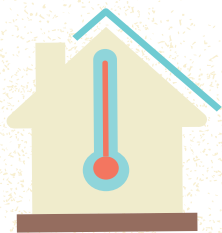
HOUSEHOLD CHALLENGES

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

Moderate impact: Have you ever explored your consumption profile within Hydro-Québec's "Customer space"? Hydro-Québec's interface allows you to track your hourly energy consumption and even compare your numbers to past years. Using the information available, challenge your household to reduce your energy consumption over the course of one month. You can even dig deeper by completing the Home Diagnostic questionnaire, which provides a more in-depth profile of your energy consumption.

Advanced impact: Reserve the new Dorval Home Energy Assessment Kit (by phoning the Library or through the online reservation tool at biblioweb.ville.dorval.qc.ca) and use it to determine how to improve the energy efficiency of your home.

Expert impact: Obtain an official EnerGuide energy-efficiency home evaluation, which includes an in-depth assessment of the energy efficiency of your household as well as recommendations to make improvements. In Quebec, a good starting point is through the services of Energy Transition (see website on page 5), which includes the Éconologis program (free home energy advice for low-income households) and the Rénoclimat program, which includes personalized advice on how to improve the energy efficiency of your home.



RESOURCES

There are many resources available to help you improve the energy efficiency of your home, which are listed below. 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 also love to hear about the inspiring actions you have taken! By sharing your experiences and successes, others may be inspired to do the same!

- David Suzuki Foundation webpage specifically offering tips about winterizing your home: **<https://davidsuzuki.org/queen-of-green/how-to-winterize-your-home/>**
- The Right Moves: A site that gives tips about small actions we can take to reduce our energy consumption: **<https://right-moves.hydroquebec.com/en/>**
- Hydro-Québec Dynamic Pricing options: Depending on your energy consumption habits, you can sign up for different billing programs that help manage power supplies during specific periods: **<https://www.hydroquebec.com/residential/customer-space/rates/dynamic-pricing.html>**
- Hydro-Québec home diagnostic tool, which allows you to make a full analysis of your electricity use: **<https://www.hydroquebec.com/residential/customer-space/electricity-use/home-diagnostic.html>**
- Natural Resources of Canada's webpage, offering energy saving tips and details about the EnerGuide program: **<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/make-your-home-more-energy-efficient/20550>**
- Energy Transition: A division of the *Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles* that helps Quebecers reduce their energy consumption. It also coordinates federal subsidy programs within the province (including Rénoclimat): **<https://transitionenergetique.gouv.qc.ca/en/residential>**

Another aspect of getting ready for winter can be cleaning out spaces (such as a garage) that clutter during the warmer weather. Some waste can be disposed of at the City environmental drop-off, taking place on September 4. Others can be directed to dedicated disposals. Please consult our first Zero Waste challenge issue (from **April 2021**), in which you will see how you can dispose of different waste (page 8) or where to donate items that are still in working condition (page 10).

WHAT TO DO WITH LEAVES

The Quebec autumn season is a beautiful time thanks to the changing colours of foliage across the province, but this also means that leaves will eventually fall and we must then decide what to do with them.

As with all organic material, leaves will naturally biodegrade and, for this reason, should be given the opportunity to decompose. This process can be done at a composting facility or in your backyard! The leaves collected by the city during the October and November weekly leaf collections are disposed of this way, but some residents will actually keep their fallen leaves for different uses. This is a way to further reduce our ecological footprint, since transporting leaves to composting facilities still involves emissions from the burning of fossil fuels by the trucks.

But what can you do with your leaves at home if you don't place them out for pickup?

- Leaves can be used in a home-made composting setup. This offers a way to dispose of your organic waste at home and provides you with free compost in a timely and convenient manner.
- Leaves can be mulched directly on the lawn by mowing over them. The smaller pieces of leaves will decompose more rapidly and will provide nutrients for your soil. While many lawnmowers can properly mulch leaves with one or a few passes, a mulching blade, or even a mulching mower, can be purchased to make the process easier.
- After mulching your leaves, place a thin layer around or over certain plants in the garden to protect them for the winter. Mulched leaves not only offer insulation as temperatures decrease, but will also eventually decompose to add nutrients to the soil of your garden.

You can find much more information about the benefits of leaf mulching online through various websites!