













Waste Checklist











10 items to reduce household waste and lower your carbon footprint

Action	Cost Up Front	Yearly Savings	CO2e Reduction <small>(lbs per year)</small>
1 Estimate your current carbon footprint using an online calculator. Write down your current yearly emissions.	 Free	Does Not Apply	Does Not Apply
2 Drop off your food scraps (compost) at any Farmer's Market location in Fairfax County or at the I-66 transfer station. Composting reduces emissions from our landfills.	 Free	Does Not Apply	↓↓↓ 3,500
3 Properly dispose of plastic bags and plastic film by bringing them to recycle at your grocery store collection bins. Please ensure they are clean and dry.	 Free	Does Not Apply	↓ 140
4 Reduce food waste in your household. In the US, 35% of food produced is never eaten. For a household of 3, that's more than \$1000 in groceries going to waste every year!	 Free	\$\$\$ \$1,100	↓↓↓ 3,600
5 Avoid buying products and food that come in single-use plastic containers when possible.	 Free	Does Not Apply	↓↓ 550
6 Donate clothes and household items that are still usable rather than throwing them away.	 Free	Does Not Apply	↓ 360
7 Recycle your glass in the Purple Cans (dumpsters) located throughout the county. Please do NOT put glass in your trash or in your recycling bin.	 Free	Does Not Apply	↓ 80
8 Recycle aluminum and steel cans, plastic bottles, mixed use paper, cardboard, and other recyclable materials in single stream recycling. Please ensure items are recyclable first.	 varies	Does Not Apply	↓↓ 800
9 Use reusable bags rather than plastic or paper you may find at the grocery store.	 \$5	\$ \$75	↓↓ 100
10 Purchase wisely. Buy durable products and only buy what you need. Consider buying in bulk to reduce packaging.	 varies	\$\$\$ varies	↓↓↓ varies



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Key: Use this key to help you decide which actions are right for you.

Cost Up Front	 Free	 \$1 - \$500	 \$500- \$1,000	 \$1,000+
Yearly Savings	Does Not Apply	 \$1 - \$500	 \$500- \$1,000	 \$1,000+
Co2 Equivalent Reduction	Does Not Apply	 1 - 500 lbs	 500- 1,000 lbs	 1,000+ lbs

(Note: Estimates were made based on an average household of 3 in Fairfax County)

Want more climate actions?
View the full
Climate Action Checklist,
with 70+ items:



[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
environment-energy-
coordination/resources-residents](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resources-residents)

Resources: Use the below links to learn more about actions to reduce waste.

1. Carbon Footprint Calculator

- o <https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

2. Food Scraps

- o <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/food-scraps-composting-drop>

3. Proper Disposal of Plastic Bags

- o <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/plastic>
- o <https://bagandfilmrecycling.org/>

4. Reduce Food Waste

- o <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/preventing-wasted-food-home>

5. Avoid Single Use Containers

- o <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/ten-ways-unpackage-your-life>

6. Donate Clothes and Household items

- o <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-and-reusing-basics>

7. Recycle Your Glass

- o <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/glass>

8. Recycle Other Assorted Items

- o <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/residential-materials>

9. Use Reusable Bags

- o <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/disposable-plastic-bag-tax-fairfax-county>
- o While supplies last, the county will provide reusable shopping bags to those who cannot afford them. Please contact FairfaxPlasticBagTax@fairfaxcounty.gov for more information.

10. Purchase Wisely

- o <https://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts/why-buy-greener-products>

To learn more about climate and waste, visit our **Waste webpage:**



[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
environment-energy-
coordination/climate-action/waste](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/climate-action/waste)

