



DUBUQUE AREA REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE NETWORK

Optional Appendix

IRA – ISOSWO Fall Conference

October 1, 2019

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What is DARN3?

Pronounced “DARN cubed”



A grassroots campaign to inform and empower the Dubuque Community to minimize “wasting”.

DARN3's Mission:
Minimize the wasting
of valuable discards
being landfilled
by beneficial diversion
of materials
that help conserve
natural resources
and reduce
climate impacts.



Why Practice ReDuce, ReUse and ReCycle (3Rs)?

- *“WASTE” is a verb – not a noun*
- *There is no such **thing** as “WASTE”*
- *It is not “waste” until it is “wasted”*
- *Wasting resources is abusing assets –a failure*
- *Wasting is not a sound economic practice*
- *DARN3 uses “Paths toward Zero Waste”*
- *Together, Dubuque can become a smarter and more responsible community that uses resources wisely instead of wasting them*



DARN3 is volunteer-managed and partially grant-funded by the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency to:

- ❑ Establish a member/stakeholder voice in developing a sustainable materials management plan
- ❑ Reduce landfill wasting of stranded material assets and prevent pollution
- ❑ Promote the Imagine Dubuque 2037 Comprehensive Plan Goal: “Paths Toward Zero Waste”
- ~~❑ Track member **Reduce Reuse Recycle** (3Rs) behavior changes~~
- ~~❑ Fully track the volume of member discards diverted to beneficial use~~

DARN3 Initial Planned Targets:



- ~~Welcome and promote **70** local businesses and institutional members~~
- ~~Include **500** individuals and households as members~~
- ~~Provide face-to-face zero-waste education and strategies to **600** members of community groups, businesses and local government~~
- ~~Minimize **200** tons of wasted food from landfilling through both food rescue and composting~~
- ~~Divert **200** more tons of non-compostable materials to beneficial use~~
- ~~Reduce distribution of **300,000** single-use checkout bags~~

DARN3's Primary Campaign Diversion Goals:

1. Partner with “**Food Rescue**” initiatives to assist food-insecure people in meeting their nutrition needs
2. Increase **composting** of food scraps and inedible food
3. Reduce plastic pollution especially **single-use checkout bags** and straws

Advantages in participating in the DARN3 Campaign

- Provides creative positive interaction between community members
- Empowers neighbors to establish community waste minimization practices
- Decreases litter and climate disruption impacts
- Increases conservation of natural resources, clean air and clean water
- Incentivizes business exposure as green community partners

What does it mean to be part of DARN3 ?

- *It adds your steps to the Dubuque Goal of “Paths toward Zero Waste”*
- *It prioritizes your commitment to help minimize wasting by practicing :*

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

- ~~*First, members commit to diverting at least three of their current landfill discards*~~
- ~~*Next estimate and track your progress. (This can range from estimating how often you use a reusable bag or even weighing your trash weekly). It's mostly up to you*~~
- ~~*Report progress online so we can compile community progress in behavior changes*~~
- ~~*Report progress online so we can compile community volume reduction from landfilling*~~

There are no membership fees!

Who can become DARN3 members?

- Individual members



- Household members



- Business members



- Institutional members



Becoming an Individual Member is simple:

- *Start minimizing your wasting and track your changes*
- *Report changes and you can get recognized on the Darn3 website*
- if you so desire
- *Maybe you'll also improve your recycling at work*
- *Or maybe you'll decide to pick up litter on your walks or jogs*

***DARN3 can't help make these community changes
without you!***

Area	Examples of Beneficial Diversion Practices
Kitchen	use reusable tableware, dish towels, dish rags and leftover containers
Bathroom	use a small basket for recyclables, use tubeless toilet paper rolls
Bedroom/Closet	donate unwanted clothes to be reused, shop at second hand stores
Miscellaneous	recycle junk mail, share/donate magazines and books
Garage	recycle worn-out rechargeable batteries and empty and cut-up oil containers
Outdoors	mulch-mow the lawn, reduce pesticide use, pick-up litter while walking/jogging
Shopping	avoid needing single-use bags, refuse excessively packaged products
Eating Out	refuse plastic straws, take to-be-wasted recyclable items home to recycle
Recycling	participate in your community curbside or drop-off recycling programs
Composting	sign-up for Food Scrap Curbside Collection, or backyard or worm compost

Example: Some Kitchen 3Rs Tips

- Stop routinely buying plastic water bottles and use a reusable bottle
- Reuse plastics like larger yogurt containers for holding leftovers
- Recycle acceptable paper, metal and plastic materials you typically trash
- Increase frequency in purchasing perishables to minimize food spoilage
- Donate the suitable food you will not likely use to a food pantry
- If you frequently throw away leftovers, eat them before making a new meal
- Learn the meaning of “sell by, best use by dates” to reduce food wasting

Reporting	Area	Target materials and actions to reduce wasting
Example:	Kitchen	In the kitchen, I want to divert food scraps/leftovers etc.
Your #1 Area		
Example:	Garage	In the garage, I want to better manage hazardous material discards.
Your #2 Area		
Example:	Bathroom	In the bathroom, I want to improve recycling.
Your #3 Area		

If you further explain the materials or items you plan to divert from landfilling from each area you identified, you will be emailed more in-depth tips on how to better manage those materials.

Household Members can divide up the tasks

- *Real change happens when a family commits to sustainable materials management!*
- *Evaluate “stuff” that continues to go to the landfill*
- *Start reducing, reusing or recycling whatever you can*
- *Assign or rotate the “chore” of stocking reusable bags in the car*
- *We can provide you with room-by-room tip sheets*
- *We can provide you with tracking sheets – if wanted*



Tips for Individuals and Households



- Reduce: junk mail, Styrofoam, household hazardous materials, buy in bulk, choose single-use packing that is recyclable, use up leftovers in the refrigerator, decline straws or bring your own, etc.
- Reuse: use a refillable water bottle, use reusable shopping bags, purchase second hand, buy rechargeable batteries, hold a garage sale, select for recycled content in purchased products, refill ink cartridges, UpCycle, etc.
- Recycle: cardboard boxes, office paper, junk mail, #1 & #2 plastics, magazines/catalogues, aluminum and steel cans, electronics, compost food scraps, mulch mow your lawn and leaves, etc.



DUBUQUE AREA
REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE
NETWORK



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