

## Connect To Create Change In Your Community

- **Form a Sustainable Action group** Discuss the waste problems you observe and sort the mess out together.
- **Hold Letter-writing Socials** Write to your representatives and companies to express your support for [sustainable legislation](#) or change.
- **Create a Freecycle or Zero-Waste group**
- **Start a Lending Library** Consider a community toolshed or a toyery.
- **Host a “Zero-Waste Starter Kit” Series** Turn worn linens and towels into washable, reusable un-paper towels to use for everyday cleanups. Another time, use old fabric to create cutlery pouches, cloth napkins, snack & sandwich pouches, shopping bags, and produce bags. Take a couple sessions to make DIY bath & body and cleaning products. Make wax-infused cloth.
- **Run Social Media Campaigns for Action**
- **Have Exchange Parties** Host “Swap Nights” to exchange items such as toys, books, costumes, etc.. Create a “Sip & Swap” Boutique Experience with clothing, shoes, accessories, and fun beverages.
- **Gather for Upcycled Clothing Meet-ups** Make sustainable fashion (transform sweaters into skirts), repair what you love (patch up rips, sew buttons back on), or make new pieces (turn old flannels into pillow cases, old tee-shirts into blankets, etc.).
- **Organize Competitions** Compete to reduce your waste. Include a “[plastic-free](#)” or “single-use” elimination challenge. See who can extend “[Buy Nothing Day](#)” the longest.
- **Join the Zero Waste Schools Coalition**, a “platform for schools in Connecticut and beyond to connect, learn and share ways to introduce or enhance programming to [reduce waste in our schools](#).”
- **Green up the Arts** Talk with art departments and children’s librarians about choosing sustainable materials, creating upcycled art, and how the community can support them in transforming trash to treasure. One way might be to start collection bins (used gift wrapping paper, scrap fabrics, bottle caps) for crafts. Use pencils & crayons more than pens & markers to use less plastic & more degradable supplies. Use misprinted pencils that would otherwise have ended up in landfill.
- **Grow a Seed Sowing Circle** In exchange for their work, everyone who participates receives their share of support and benefits far beyond the elimination of food packaging waste. People new to gardening learn by helping to work in established gardens. Experienced gardeners help newbies get their own gardens started.

- **Create “Sustainable Party Boxes”** that can be 'checked out' for office, classroom, or group parties. Include water pitchers, cups, plates, silverware, serving utensils, paper straws, napkins, and tablecloths.
- **Publicize a BYOC list** Identify local businesses that allow you to “Bring Your Own Container.” Create a logo for them to display and use in marketing.
- **Start a Reusable Mug Program** Encourage local coffee shops to start a collection box for mugs that people can take with them for free, if needed. Or, consider partnering with other area restaurants and cafes on an initiative to use [stainless steel insulated mugs](#).
- **Coordinate Drives** Collect [cell phones for soldiers](#) or other items that you can save from the waste stream. See below for more donation suggestions.\*

### \*DONATE

1. **Books** See if your local library might accept your donations; donate them to *Pourings & Passages* in Danielson; [send paperbacks to troops overseas](#).
2. **Clothing** Donate clean clothing to local charities; new/used bras to [I Support the Girls](#); clothing in poor condition to [Bay State Textiles](#).
3. **Decorations & household items** Donate items that could be re-gifted to the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret for the Annual Holiday Nature Store.
4. **Eyeglasses** Pomfret Public Library has a Lions Club drop-off box, or see [here](#), [One Sight](#), or [Pearle Vision](#).
5. **Furniture** Salvation Army will pick up your furniture, call 1-800-SA-TRUCK; [Habitat for Humanity](#) accepts new or gently used furniture; [Operation Homefront](#) lets you choose military families for furniture donation; [Furniture Banks](#) lets you donate your gently used furniture to persons in need, typically formerly homeless people trying to get back on their feet financially.
6. **Hair and other stuff** Donate to [matteroftrust.org](#).
7. **Large appliances** If you're upgrading an appliance that still works, the new dealer may remove it when your new unit is delivered. If not, consider donating it to a church or thrift store.
8. **Linens** Donate used but washed and clean linens to animal shelters.
9. **Mascara wands** Send used wands to Wildlife Wands, P.O. Box 1586, Southwick, MA 01077 (for donation to Connecticut Wildlife Rehabilitators Association) or to [Wands for Wildlife@](#).
10. **Tools & building materials** Donate to [Habitat for Humanity](#) or any other construction-focused local charity.

**Want More Ideas & Resources?** See [this piece](#) on collaborative consumption and peer-to-peer collaboration.