

Community League Potential Initiatives

There are so many green initiatives that community leagues can participate in, that the volunteers and the community they represent can choose the most relevant and interesting for the group. To choose the best for your neighbourhood, make sure you:

- ✔ Focus on what interests you and your community
- ✔ Make it matter locally ie. if you live near the river valley, you may want to focus on initiatives that clean the water and environment. If your neighbourhood recently got bike lanes, focus on healthy transportation.
- ✔ Start small, and grow momentum! Even small changes (like changing to LED lights) can inspire your neighbourhood to take the next step into something larger.
- ✔ Crow about what you do! Communities are all about sharing, so let your neighbours hear about every initiative you do, even the boring hall maintenance stuff!

Though there are a variety of different things that a community league can do, below are some ideas that start as a jumping off point.

Energy Initiatives

Organizational

- ✔ Get an energy audit
- ✔ Think about generating solar power
- ✔ Buy energy efficient lights and appliances when old ones need to be replaced (can use light installation as a community event)
- ✔ Install lighting and heating controls (ex. Bathroom occupancy sensors, smart thermostats)
- ✔ Install an electric car charging station
- ✔ Consider energy sub monitoring to better understand and showcase hall energy use
- ✔ Integrate local purchases in all events (local gift cards as prizes, local grocery shopping for food, etc.)

Programs

- ✔ Promote walking/biking to community events and meetings (may include installing extra bike racks, campaigning for bike lanes in neighbourhood, a bike safety event, or group biking days)
- ✔ Work towards local membership benefits (community league discounts to local stores, local restaurants, local attractions)

Events

- 🌱 Solar fun day (event day focused on energy efficiency and solar)
- 🌱 Site tour (for those with solar) and presentations
- 🌱 Hosting workshops about residential energy saving opportunities
- 🌱 An Earth Day lights out game night

Waste Initiatives

Organizational

- 🌱 Institute hall recycling
- 🌱 Institute hall composting (works great in conjunction with a community garden)
- 🌱 Get a waste audit
- 🌱 Integrate zero waste thinking in the planning of all events (recyclable plates, having recycling and composting instead of garbage bins, reusable decorations, etc.)
- 🌱 Recycle cigarette waste

Programs

- 🌱 Bottle drives (best used in conjunction with installing hall recycling)
- 🌱 Add recycling containers to the garbage bins in local park
- 🌱 Become a collecting place for e-waste
- 🌱 Purchase a Tool Library Membership as a community league membership benefit

Events

- 🌱 Big bin event
- 🌱 Park clean up
- 🌱 Reuse fair
- 🌱 I've out grown it sale (used children clothing)

Nature Initiatives

Organizational

- ✦ Utilize xeriscaping or native plant gardens
- ✦ Install a local air quality monitor (can be installed in conjunction with a zero-idling campaign)
- ✦ Add bird feeders to hall exterior
- ✦ Use green maintenance products (ex. Sustainable wood products, low VOC recyclable paints)

Programs

- ✦ Plant a community garden or food forest
- ✦ Organize zero idling signage and campaign

Events

- ✦ Tree planting event

Water Initiatives

Organizational

- ✦ Receive a water audit (usually in conjunction with energy audit)
- ✦ Install rain barrels
- ✦ Plant rain gardens or install xeriscaping
- ✦ Use green cleaning products

Events

- ✦ Creek or river valley clean up event

Other Initiatives

- Create a plan to make your community hall an emergency shelter and a place of refuge
- Building community halls to high green building standards (ex. Passive House, LEED standards, etc.)
- Create an organizational Sustainable Operation Guide (to formally include some of the previously mentioned suggestions)