



With thanks to the City of Guelph Emergency Fund, PIN is pleased to provide a series of DIY Volunteer Projects for Youth.

Get involved. Make an impact. Gain community involvement hours

## At One with Nature.

**“In nature there is no such as waste. In nature nothing is wasted; everything is recycled .” –David Suzuki**

In 2015, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by all 193 United Nations Member States in a historical agenda; this agenda included 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The agenda and SDGs are:

*"calls for actions by all countries for all people over the next 15 years in five areas of critical importance: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership" ([UN.org](http://UN.org)).*

One of the SDGs, is Goal #12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, which "about doing more and better with less. It is also about decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency and promoting sustainable lifestyles" ([UN.org](http://UN.org)). Worldwide, we are using copious amounts of natural resources and waste and pollution is at an all time high.

### **Why is this important?**

Importantly, all of the SDGs can not be achieved unless waster management becomes a priority. Currently,

- On a annual basis, 1/3 of all food produced goes to waste;
- half of waste isn't collected, treated or safely disposed of;
- By 2030, world-wide to substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

This DIY invites you to find ways to help our environment and the nature around us by reducing, recycling and/or reusing items. If there is no option to recycle or reuse, think about properly disposing of waste to protect our natural habitats.

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DYK? In 2014, it was found that Canadians produce more garbage per capita than any other country on earth, Canadians generate approximately 31 million tonnes of garbage a year (and only recycle about 30 per cent of that material) CRC Research.

### Activity Steps:

- Learn about the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda and Goals.
- Check out the other SDGs and how they relate to nature and waste management.
- Create a plan of action for how you can create a better waste management system in your household.
- Grab a friend and help clear parks, streets and waterways of any waste. Don't forget to properly dispose of the waste, wear gloves and practice safe Covid protocols.
- Keep track of all the waste your household consumes in one week. At the end of the week, tally what was recyclable, compostable, reusable and what was just garbage.

### Reflection

- What did you learn about this activity?
- Think about the importance of waste management in our daily lives? What would our communities look (and smell) like?
- David Suzuki says "In nature nothing is waste; everything is recycled." How can we better apply nature's principles into our lives?



### PIN Points:

PINnetwork.ca hosts two databases to explore

1. Volunteer Opportunities supporting SDG #12
2. Community Information including organizations that focus on recycling