



DU PAGE COUNTY

Environmental Committee

Final Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

8:30 AM

Room 3500A

1. CALL TO ORDER

8:30 A.M. meeting was called to order by Chair Sheila Rutledge at 8:30 A.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Other Members Present: Paula Deacon Garcia, Yeena Yoo

PRESENT	Cronin Cahill, Evans, Haider, Honig, LaPlante, and Rutledge
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3. CHAIRWOMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR RUTLEDGE

3.A. 2025 Sign Event Recap

The 2025 campaign sign recycle event was highly successful, with an overwhelming number of signs collected, especially from the municipal elections -so much that the dumpster overflowed. This effort helped keep a significant amount of plastic out of landfills.

3.B. International Compost Awareness Week

This week is International Compost Awareness Week, the largest educational initiative in the compost and waste industries. This year's theme, "Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost," emphasizes the impact of composting at all levels-from backyard to community efforts that help contribute to healthier soils. Sheila mentioned an article in the "Chicago Tribune" about a large-scale composting company, Green Era that accepts even packaged goods for composting.

Joy responded that Green Era's customer base is mostly commercial and not as much residential. She also stated that **Choose DuPage** had a webinar with Green Era and offered to send the webinar recording out to whomever is interested.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kay McKeen, founder and Executive Director of SCARCE - This week is International Compost Awareness Week, and two composting workshops are scheduled for Thursday. The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry is partnering with the People's Resource Center to initiate food scrap composting. Recently, a group of students successfully lobbied their school board to eliminate toxic black plastic from their district's lunch packaging. April saw eight recycling events, including a large event in Wheaton where one woman dropped off 500 campaign signs. At the Garden Market event, attendance was the highest yet. During a Wheaton event, 30,000 pounds of food were collected, filling three trucks, and there was a record collection of syringes, EpiPens, and

medicine. May brings more composting workshops and garden markets, with many items preordered. Appreciation was shared for everyone's efforts in environmental care, along with thanks for community support in projects like composting and recycling.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.A. [25-1122](#)

Environmental Committee Minutes - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, April 1, 2025

RESULT: APPROVED

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.A. Showcasing the Illinois Green Business Assessment & Planning Tool - Sustainable DuPage

Cassie Carroll - Marketing & Communications Director, SEDAC

Cassandra's slideshow explained how SEDAC (Smart Energy Design Assistance Center), which is based out of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, focuses on empowering organizations with practical solutions for climate, energy, and sustainability. One of its major initiatives is the Illinois Green Business Program, established in 2008 to help businesses go green, reduce costs, and support community sustainability.

Since 2023, SEDAC has partnered with Sustainable DuPage and Choose DuPage, working with 20 facilities to implement cost-saving and environmentally friendly measures, achieving significant energy savings and reduced carbon emissions. SEDAC also connects businesses with utility incentives and funding opportunities to support these changes.

To aid businesses in sustainability efforts, SEDAC developed a Green Business Assessment and Planning Tool. This tool helps businesses-whether new to sustainability or experienced-identify inefficiencies, create sustainability plans, track progress, and engage employees in sustainable practices. It also guides proactive maintenance and connects businesses to funding for sustainable upgrades.

The tool is structured around four steps:

1. Launch a Green Team and develop a mission.
2. Conduct a facility assessment to identify areas for improvement.
3. Identify areas for improvement and prioritize sustainability practices.
4. Develop a sustainability plan by identifying key steps, timelines, funding and communication with staff

SEDAC is committed to supporting businesses in using this tool to foster long-term sustainability and efficiency across Illinois.

Robert Schlorff, Energy Engineer at SEDAC presented a detailed, live demonstration of the Green Business Assessment and Planning Tool. He explained how the SEDAC Green Business Assessment and Planning Tool is a structured, spreadsheet-based system designed to help businesses assess sustainability opportunities, identify waste, prioritize improvements, and create

actionable sustainability plans. It is part of SEDAC's mission to empower organizations with climate, energy, and sustainability solutions.

Tool Overview:**1. How to use:**

- The first tab provides information on usage, version details, contact information, and basic guidelines for input.

2. Step 1 - Launch a Green Team:

- Businesses list the departments and individuals involved in sustainability efforts.
- Mission, vision, goals, and support structures are outlined.
- Initial ideas, success measurements, alignment with company values, and budgeting considerations are captured.

3. Step 2 - Conduct a Facility Assessment:

- The tool is divided within four groups in five key areas
- Office Space, Restrooms and Kitchens, Production spaces, Loading Docks
 - **Lighting**
 - **Envelope**
 - **Waste**
 - **Equipment**
 - **HVAC**
- For each area, businesses evaluate sustainability aspects (e.g., LED lighting, water usage, equipment conditions).
- Responses are color-coded for clarity (e.g., green for good, yellow for moderate, red for issues).

4. Step 3 - Identify Areas for Improvement:

- Information from facility assessments is compiled to identify and prioritize action areas.
- Green Teams can select which opportunities to pursue based on assessment results.

5. Step 4 - Sustainability Plan:

- Goals and priority strategies are developed based on assessment findings.
- Implementation steps, success measurements, timelines, responsible departments, and resource needs are outlined.
- Up to four main goals can be structured, with strategies for execution and milestones for tracking.

6. Utility Data Tracking:

- Tabs for **Electricity** and **Gas Data** allow businesses to input usage and analyze consumption patterns.
- A benchmarking tab visualizes energy use, cost intensity, and carbon impact over time.

7. Equipment Tracking:

- Includes templates for HVAC and other production equipment, helping businesses monitor condition and efficiency.

8. Illinois Green Business Checklist:

- A final tab with color-coded responses helps companies quickly assess alignment with Illinois Green Business standards.

Support and Guidance:

- The tool is accompanied by a written step-by-step guide to simplify its use.
- SEDAC offers support to help businesses implement the tool and develop their sustainability plans.

The tool is designed to make sustainability planning practical and straightforward, empowering companies to identify inefficiencies, prioritize changes, and implement long-term solutions.

Vice chair Saba Haider responded with how great the presentation was and if there are any limitations on the size of business (square footage, number of employees, etc.) and usefulness of the tool. Cassandra stated that there is no limit - organizations of all sizes can utilize the tool.

Member Cahill inquired about a fee for downloading the tool. There is no fee. All that is needed is to fill out a contact form on the Choose DuPage website.

In closing, Cassandra mentioned The **DuPage County Sustainable Business Collaborative is coming soon**. It is a networking platform for municipal staff and committee members to share ideas, successes, and strategies for engaging local businesses in sustainability. Open to all municipal representatives, the collaborative meets quarterly to explore ways communities can support business sustainability, connect with local programs, and align business efforts with community sustainability goals.

7. STAFF REPORTS**7.A. [25-1158](#)****2025 Propane Tank Recycling Partnership**

Joy Hinz announced that DuPage County is continuing its partnership with the **Forest Preserve District** to collect **1-pound propane tanks** at Blackwell Family Campground through October. Last year's program cost the county less than \$300, and this year's costs are expected to be under \$500.

7.B. [25-1157](#)**Food Waste Prevention Week Recap**

She also highlighted **Food Waste Prevention Week**, praising Myles Barnes for his effective social media efforts, which have noticeably increased traffic and awareness.

8. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

9. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 A.M.



Minutes

421 N. COUNTY FARM
ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

File #: 25-1122

Agenda Date: 5/6/2025

Agenda #: 5.A.



DU PAGE COUNTY

Environmental Committee

Final Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

8:30 AM

Room 3500A

1. CALL TO ORDER

8:30 A.M. meeting was called to order by Chair Sheila Rutledge at 8:30 A.M.

2. ROLL CALL

MOVER:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
SECONDER:	Paula Garcia
PRESENT	Cronin Cahill, Evans, Honig, LaPlante, Rutledge, and Garcia
REMOTE	Haider

MOTION TO ALLOW REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Member Cronin Cahill moved and Member Garcia seconded a motion to allow Member Haider to participate remotely.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
SECONDER:	Paula Garcia
AYES:	Cronin Cahill, Evans, Honig, LaPlante, Rutledge, and Garcia
REMOTE:	Haider

3. CHAIRWOMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR RUTLEDGE

Chair Rutledge mentions that she is organizing a crew for an upcoming prairie path clean up and anyone is welcome to participate.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kay McKeen, founder and Executive Director of SCARCE (School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education) stated this month is packed with recycling events-eight in total. Upcoming events include a flag ceremony at Forest Glen School in Glen Ellyn on Earth Day, April 22 and the 19th year of the Sustainable Design Challenge on April 15, which already has 26 teams signed up. A scheduling conflict with SAT testing means some schools won't participate this year, so organizers are considering shifting the date to March in future years. Arbor Day is celebrating its 153rd anniversary and upcoming events include a cleanup along the prairie path and the Great Western Trail on April 26th. She concluded by encouraging the board to participate in these activities, emphasizing how simple actions can make a big difference in caring for the planet.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**5.A. [25-0913](#)**

Environmental Committee Minutes - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, March 4, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
SECONDER:	Lucy Evans

6. PRESENTATIONS**6.A. [25-0914](#)**

Clean Energy Workforce Analysis

Lisa Schvach, Executive Director at WorkNet DuPage, shared how she and Workforce Board Manager Jamie Brown were approached by Joy Hinz to allocate a portion of the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant funds to explore the clean energy job sector in DuPage County. Their goal was to assess the county's positioning for future opportunities and identify areas with limited potential.

One of the grant's allowable activities was conducting a workforce skills gap analysis, which led them to partner with Lightcast. Over two months (October-December 2024), Lightcast analyzed labor market trends to evaluate DuPage County's workforce strengths and determine the presence of clean energy jobs. Using the Jobs EQ technology platform, they aggregated data from workforce, labor market, and economic development reports to identify trends in job demand.

Schvach noted the challenge in defining "green jobs" since they do not fall under a specific industry sector. To address this, they collaborated with another organization to develop a tagging system, categorizing roles as either "core green jobs" or "green-enabled jobs." The report found that green-enabled jobs currently make up the majority of DuPage County's clean energy workforce. Schvach emphasized that this tagging system was essential for accurately identifying job trends and understanding the region's clean employment landscape.

Lisa Schvach highlighted key findings from the report, noting an increase in workforce training but emphasizing that the overall number of job openings in DuPage County's clean energy sector remains relatively small and furthermore identifies green building and construction as the sector with the most job postings year over year. However, even at its peak, this sector had only 1,400 job openings, making it a small fraction of the county's total labor market.

She cautioned that while the report shows a 200% increase in green jobs, this percentage can be misleading since it starts from a relatively low base compared to the county's overall job market. The report identified the three largest sectors for green or clean jobs in DuPage County: construction, manufacturing, and building maintenance, with automotive being the smallest.

Schvach noted that the findings align with the types of career guidance and training WorkNet DuPage provides to job seekers. With construction-both green and traditional-showing strong growth and manufacturing in high demand, WorkNet DuPage has been expanding training programs in HVAC, programmable logic controllers, and other building science-related fields to meet the evolving workforce needs.

The automotive industry data in WorkNet DuPage's analysis revealed some surprising insights. **Jamie Brown, Workforce Board Manager at WorkNet DuPage**, shared their curiosity about the experience and training required for someone pursuing a career as an Electric Vehicle (EV) Technician.

After reaching out to local mechanics and car dealerships, Brown found that employers overwhelmingly expect a minimum of five years of experience-with some managers requiring at least 10 years-to qualify for an EV technician role. This means that short-term training programs, such as six-week or two-month courses, are not sufficient to enter the EV field. Instead, becoming an EV technician requires extensive mechanical experience, making it a challenging career path for newcomers.

Lisa Schvach noted that this reality can be frustrating for job seekers, who often discover late in their training that the pathway to green jobs is far more complex than they initially thought. The key takeaway from this report, she emphasized, is finding ways to help individuals take those crucial first steps on the career ladder-so they can eventually reach these high-demand, premium positions in the green workforce.

Chair Rutledge invites Member Evans to share any questions, prompting Evans to ask Lisa and Jamie for more details on the report or any presentation slides summarizing the findings.

Lisa reiterates that the top green industries in DuPage County are construction, manufacturing, building maintenance, and automotive, with automotive ranking the lowest among them. She highlights that DuPage County excels in green-enabled jobs at the office and management level, such as project management for environmental companies.

She explains that WorkNet DuPage is closely examining these entry points, identifying potential employer connections, and training programs necessary for job placement. A key challenge is helping individuals secure middle-skills jobs-positions that offer livable wages without requiring extensive training. The report not only validates existing observations but also provides a clearer economic outlook for DuPage County.

As a result, Lisa shares that WorkNet DuPage has connected with a new training provider seeking state approval to offer training programs for both individuals and company employees. She also highlights incumbent worker training grants as a significant tool, providing reimbursement for training costs to help businesses improve their workforce.

Member LaPlante shares her thoughts on the presentation and suggests ways DuPage

County could bridge the gaps in green job opportunities. She asks Lisa and Jamie how the board can help incentivize and encourage more individuals to enter the green sector.

Lisa responds by highlighting a misalignment between job supply and demand-many individuals are pursuing careers that do not necessarily align with the most in-demand roles. She emphasizes the need for a campaign to raise awareness, helping people recognize that green jobs are a viable and growing career sector.

Vice Chair Haider then asks whether mechanics must gain experience solely through on-the-job training to become EV technicians or if formal training programs are available. She also inquires about the duration of such training.

Lisa explains that while some formal training exists, much of the necessary expertise comes from on-the-job experience, typically requiring five to ten years to advance in the field.

There are automotive training programs incorporating EV technology, which is a positive step in familiarizing new mechanics with the field. However, feedback from dealerships and repair shops suggests that while these programs are beneficial, newer technicians are not being allowed to work directly on EVs. Instead, EV repairs are reserved for senior mechanics, limiting immediate opportunities for those just entering the industry.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.A. [25-0923](#)

DuPage County 2024 Waste & Recycling Annual Report

Due to time constraints, Chair Rutledge encourages the board to reach out to Joy Hinz with questions about the DuPage County 2024 Waste and Recycling Annual Report.

7.B. 2025 Document Shredding Events Update

Due to time constraints, Chair Rutledge encourages the board to reach out to Joy Hinz with questions about the 2025 Document Shredding Events Update.

8. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

9. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 A.M.



Staff Report

421 N. COUNTY FARM
ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

File #: 25-1158

Agenda Date: 5/6/2025

Agenda #: 7.A.



**DUPAGE
COUNTY**

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

630-407-6767

www.dupagecounty.gov/environmental

MEMORANDUM

To: Sheila Rutledge, Chair
Environmental Committee Members

From: Joy Hinz, Environmental & Sustainability Programs Manager

Date: April 22, 2025

Re: 2025 Small Propane Tank Recycling Program

The County will again be partnering with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County ("District") to collect 1 lb propane tanks for recycling. The District has placed the collection container at the Blackwell family campground and will be collecting the tanks from May through October. The tanks are then recycled by Flat Can Recycling. The program cost in 2024 was \$300.

When propane tanks are erroneously placed in curbside recycling or trash containers, they become a hazard at the materials recovery facility, transfer station or landfill if punctured by processing equipment.



Staff Report

421 N. COUNTY FARM
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File #: 25-1157

Agenda Date: 5/6/2025

Agenda #: 7.B.



DUPAGE
COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

630-407-6767

www.dupagecounty.gov/environmental

MEMORANDUM

To: Sheila Rutledge, Chair
Environmental Committee Members

From: Joy Hinz, Environmental & Sustainability Programs Manager

Date: April 22, 2025

Re: Food Waste Prevention Week Recap

Food Waste Prevention Week was April 7th – 13th. As a partner, the Division provided outreach and awareness via the Cool DuPage social media platforms and newsletter. The attached bingo card was placed in the 421 cafeteria and employees were encouraged to take one and engage with Cool DuPage on social media.

Below are some of the items that were posted on social media. Cool DuPage has also recently launched on LinkedIn and Instagram and is regularly posting about events in the County and other important environmental topics.

 **Cool DuPage is with Food Waste Prevention Week.**
April 13 at 9:00 AM · 🌐

🔊 Alexa, play "The Beat Goes On" by Sonny & Cher

📱 Food Waste Prevention Week 2025 may be ending, but the "beet" goes on! Download your Food Waste Top 10 Playlist to track your progress, set goals, and reduce waste all year. Be a [#FoodMaestro](#) and keep the rhythm alive all year long to make a lasting impact! [#FoodLoveRemix](#) [#FoodWastePreventionWeek](#) [#dupagecounty](#) [#dupagecountyil](#)

Let us know your score in the comments 📈

FILL OUT THE SCORECARD



FOOD WASTE PREVENTION WEEK Top 10 Playlist

ACTION	POINTS
HOST A "LEFTOVER NIGHT". Dedicate one night a week to using up leftovers. Check out tools like the Millennium Project's FoodPledge . Save the Food's Most Pungent Menu, and FoodShare for inspiration.	5
CREATE AN "EAT THIS NOW" FRIDGE ZONE. Designate a specific area in your fridge for food that needs to be eaten soon to avoid spoilage.	5
TRUST YOUR SENSES OVER LABELS. Use your senses to determine if food is still good instead of relying solely on date labels. Remember, most dates indicate peak quality, not safety.	5
PLAN THE RIGHT PORTIONS. Avoid over-preparing for eating tools like Save the Food's Guzman or SaveTheFood.com/guzman . Share extra food with friends, neighbors, or coworkers.	10
LEARN PROPER FOOD STORAGE. Keep your food fresh longer by learning how to store it correctly. Visit SaveTheFood.com/storage for helpful tips.	10
REORGANIZE YOUR FRIDGE. Maximize food freshness by arranging your fridge properly. Find tips on NRDC.org .	10
TRY FOOD-SAVING APPS. Use apps like Fridge Night , Too Good To Go , Flashfood , or Olio to save and share food.	10
GET CREATIVE WITH FOOD SCRAPS. Explore ways to eat parts of fruits and vegetables you'd usually toss. For example, carrot greens and cooked potato peels are edible!	15
TEACH A FOOD-SAVING SKILL. Share your knowledge with friends or family by teaching them kitchen hacks, how to repurpose leftovers or store food properly.	15
COOK WITH A PURPOSE. Find a creative way to use leftover food you usually don't know what to do with. Submit your recipe to the Cooking Challenge at FoodMaestro.com/foodshare .	15

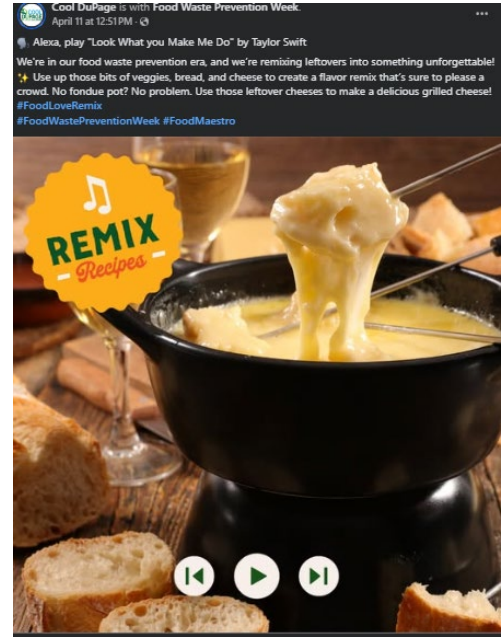
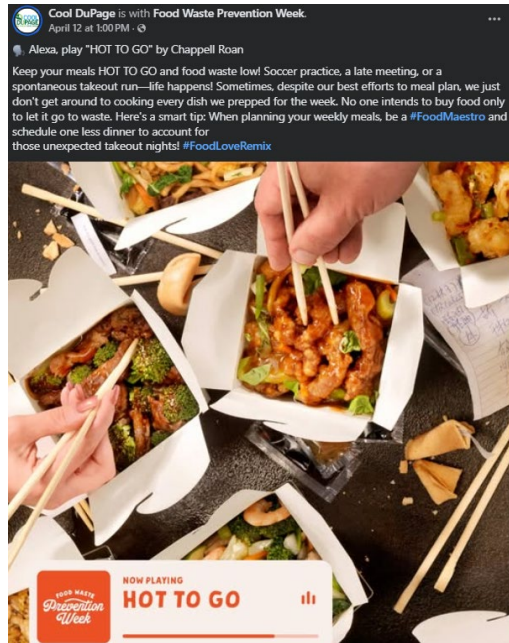


DUPAGE
COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

630-407-6767

www.dupagecounty.gov/environmental



Cool DuPage is with Village of Westmont, Government and 12 others.
April 18 at 4:30 PM · 🌐

🚨 WEEKEND ALERT! 🚨

So many awesome free events and webinars happening this weekend — don't miss out! Mark your 📅 & tag someone in the comments who needs to join you! 🙌

To find out more information or register for an event, visit:
(https://www.dupagecounty.gov/_/environment/_/events.php)

#WeekendVibes #dupagecounty #EventsNearMe #CoolDuPage #PlanetFriendlyPlans #RecycleRight #westmontillinois #bloomingdaleillinois #isleillinois #downersgroveillinois #DuPage #DuPageCounty #napervilleillinois #elmhurstil #villaparkil #EarthDay2025 #EarthDay #wooddaleillinois #garfieldparkconservatory #stcharlesil

PLANET-FRIENDLY PLANS YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE	
Saturday 19	Electronic Recycling - Bloomingdale Township (8 AM - 12 PM)
Sunday 19	Linde Park District's Free Paper Shred Event (8 AM - 11 AM)
Sunday 19	Village of Downers Grove Document Shredding Event (8 AM - 12 PM)



PLANET-FRIENDLY PLANS YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE	
Saturday 19	34th Annual DuPage River Sweep (9 AM - 12 PM)
Sunday 19	City of Naperville Shred Event with Rep. Janet Yang Rohr & Senator Khoman (9 AM - 12 PM)
Sunday 19	Garden Plots Tour - Naperville Park District (9 AM - 10 AM)



PLANET-FRIENDLY PLANS YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE	
Saturday 19	Kath & Olson Prairie Volunteer Day - Elmhurst Park District (9 AM - 12 PM)
Sunday 19	Village of Westmont Paper Shred Fundraiser for Special Olympics (9 AM - 1 PM)
Sunday 19	Villa Park Electronics Recycling Event (9 AM - 12 PM)

PLANET-FRIENDLY PLANS YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE	
Saturday 19	Nature Tot Workshop - Downers Grove Park District (9:30 AM - 10:30 AM)
Sunday 19	Celebrate Earth Day at Garfield Park Conservatory (11 AM - 2 PM)
Sunday 19	The Junkbusters Earth Day Celebration - Mount Dale Park District (11 AM - 1 PM)

PLANET-FRIENDLY PLANS YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE	
Sunday 19	Village of St. Charles Nature Play on Earth Day (11 AM - 2 PM)

FOOD WASTE *Prevention* *Week*

B I N G O

TAKE THE FOOD WASTE PLEDGE	MAKE AN AT HOME FOOD WASTE AUDIT	PARTICIPATE IN A GLEANNING EVENT	MAKE A  SHOPPING LIST	ATTEND A FOOD WASTE PREVENTION WEEK WEBINAR
BUY SINGLE  BANANAS	WATCH THE "JUST EAT IT" DOCUMENTARY	USE YOUR FREEZER TO STORE INGREDIENTS (LIKE HERBS) AND LEFTOVERS LONGER	TRY THE EGG TEST	TURN LEFTOVERS & SCRAPS INTO A NEW MEAL
KEEP OLDER ITEMS IN THE FRONT OF THE FRIDGE	COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS	FREE  SPACE	STORE LEFTOVERS IN CLEAR CONTAINERS	REVIVE WILTED VEGGIES IN ICE WATER
DON'T BUY MORE FOOD THAN WHAT YOU NEED	USE A MEAL PLANNING TOOL	BUY THE LAST ITEM ON THE SHELF	EAT LEFTOVERS	BUY THE UGLY  PRODUCE
LEARN "BEST BY" DOESN'T MEAN EXPIRED	PLAN WEEKLY  MEALS	TURN VEGGIE SCRAPS INTO VEGETABLE BROTH	TURN BONES INTO BROTH	USE WHAT YOU HAVE BEFORE BUYING GROCERIES

SAVE *Food* **SAVE** *Money*

FOODWASTEPREVENTIONWEEK.COM