

Sharing

Sustainability Spotlight Article Excerpt From Connections For Sustainability Newsletter Issue 21: December 2013
By Jaclin DuRant - Livability Educator and Emily Hays - Furman University

Sharing is a simple sustainable behavior that can have a tremendous positive impact on our environment, pocketbook, and community. As the holidays approach, consider ways that we can elevate the concept of sharing with others from a lesson that we teach children to a value that can help empower and sustain our communities.

Public libraries, museums, and other resources are great ways to share, but if you're interested in going one step further, some easy ways to share resources as an adult are:

- Join a bike share. The Greenville B-Cycle is a bike share program open for anyone to use. There are six bike stations spread throughout downtown. There are annual memberships available or you can pay a nominal fee, grab a bike, and ride to your destination. It provides an efficient and easy way to move about downtown, while getting some exercise.
- Host a clothing swap. Get together a group of friends, family, or children and collect clothes that you no longer use. When everyone comes together with their clothes, sort them and put them out according to size or type. This is a great way to get a nice new to you outfit without having to spend any money. If there are leftovers, these can be taken to a local thrift store and donated.
- Share a meal. Host a potluck or a block party with the people on your street. This is a

great way to spend time with your neighbors. Everyone could bring a dish and it's a fun time waiting to happen.

- Put up a tiny library. Like these <http://littlefreelibrary.org/>. Have a take a book, leave a book policy, and see how the collection changes over time. Who knows, maybe a book club or after school reading time will develop because of this.
- Create a community toolshed. Another idea is to create a small neighborhood co-op for tools such as a lawn mower, leaf blower, drills, and such. Have a community shed and rental check-out period. Imagine how much more cost-effective it would be for you if everyone was able to share these items.
- Carpooling or ride sharing is another great way to share resources. You can split the cost of gas, or alternate drivers as you take children to school, commute to work, or even go on a business trip. Carpooling emits less CO2 into the atmosphere, uses less fossil fuel, is less expensive than driving your own car everywhere you go, and can provide a great way to get to know someone new.
- Share through the internet with resources such as freecycle, where you can trade or give away items you don't want and pick up new things free or lending library sites for items like shoes, purses, books, and more.

Sharing our resources can include sharing time, labor, or knowledge, with friends, family, or volunteering at a local shelter, retirement community, and more. Sharing is a great way to be more sustainable and gain a lot in return.