



Below is a menu of C3 Projects you can undertake and tailor to your community and interests. For each project, C3 has written a detailed Project Guide. Project Guides can be downloaded at [www.chicagoconservationcorps.org](http://www.chicagoconservationcorps.org), click on 'C3 Project Guides.'

## LAND

### **Become a Site Steward**

Work with your project team and a representative from the Friends of the Forest Preserves or the Chicago Park District to do restoration and clean-up work at your local forest preserve or park. Beautify and explore the natural area that surrounds you while also learning about the native plants and animals hiding in your neighborhood park or forest preserve.

### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Re-Think!**

Help reduce waste and save energy and landfill space by encouraging your community to reduce, reuse, recycle and donate instead of throwing old things away. Hold an interactive workshop to teach your community about recycling and/or reducing and reusing. At the workshop, collect old computers, used clothes, bicycles, cell phones, and other materials to dispose of safely or donate to your favorite charity. Estimate how much waste you divert from landfills and provide community members with the tools they need to properly recycle in your neighborhood.

### **Worms Ate My Lunch!**

Organize a workshop to teach your community about vermicomposting, the practice of using worms to turn organic food waste into a nutrient-rich soil. During the workshop, demonstrate how to compost with worms and then help community members build their own worm composting bins to take home. After a month or two, contact workshop attendees to see how their bins are doing and to track how much waste the bins divert from the landfills each week.

### **Community Garden Projects**

*In order to complete a community garden project, attend Greencorps training and apply for basic garden assistance. See the Greencorps application at [www.cityofchicago.org/environment](http://www.cityofchicago.org/environment) for more information.*

## AIR AND ENERGY

### **Breathe Easier**

Help your community save energy and prevent air pollution by organizing an Air and Energy workshop. Distribute weatherization kits, hand out compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), or make green cleaning solutions. Educate participants about how to weatherize, use CFLs most effectively, or prevent indoor air pollution. Connect with participants again in a few weeks and ask them to report any changes they have made as a result of your workshop.

### **Pool Your Resources**

Save on gas, get exercise, and spend time with neighbors. Organize a group of neighbors to carpool, walk or bike together to work, church, school, the grocery store, etc. Keep track of the number of people participating and miles carpooled, walked or biked in order to estimate how much fuel your group saves and how much pollution they prevent by avoiding driving.

### **What Are You Waiting For?**

Recruit a project team to help you conduct a survey of idling vehicles in your community, perhaps around an institution such as a school, hospital, or community center. Record how many you see, for how long, and what kind of vehicles. Then use our calculator to estimate how much pollution is emitted by the idling you observe. Educate the institution about the data you gather and then engage them in a campaign to prevent idling around the neighborhood.



## **WATER**

### **Adopt-a-Beach™**

Work with a representative from Alliance for the Great Lakes to adopt a local beach. Keep the area clean by collecting trash and help track water quality by conducting water quality tests.

### **Go Against the Flow**

Promote the use of low flow showerheads, low flow faucet aerators, or toilet leak detection kits. Organize a workshop for community members. At the workshop, educate participants about the importance of water conservation, distribute the materials and demonstrate how to install them. In return for the materials, ask participants to monitor and report their before- and after-installation water usage. Estimate gallons of water saved by your efforts.

### **Roll out the Barrel**

Organize a rain barrel distribution day in coordination with the Department of Environment (DOE). Announce your Roll Out the Barrel day in the local press, prepare outreach materials, and educate purchasers about downspout disconnection and rain barrel placement. Follow up with barrel owners to make sure they are using their barrels and to calculate the amount of water conserved and prevented from going into the sewer system.

## **AWEL (Air, Water, Energy *and* Land)**

### **Green a Festival**

Chicago is known for its neighborhood festivals and for being one of the greenest cities in the country. Help us put two and two together! Work with the organizers of your neighborhood festival or other event to improve its sustainability. Ideas include creating a list of suggestions or requirements for vendors on reducing waste, or encouraging attendees to walk or bike instead of drive. Estimate how many people your project reaches and how much waste you prevent and energy you save.

### **Green Your Office**

Reach out to your workplace managers and offer to work with them to establish a "green team" in your place of business. Recruit volunteers from within the organization to help you research environmental needs and best practices and establish guidelines and suggestions for implementation. Ideas for improvements include everything from encouraging double-sided printing, setting up a bike-to-work or carpooling program, and improving energy conservation and indoor air quality to installing compact fluorescent lighting, waterless urinals, and office compost bins. Track your efforts in a common area so others can see the impact of your green team's work.

### **Living Green**

Make your condo association or apartment complex a leader in conservation. Conduct a survey of your building to see what environmentally-friendly initiatives are already in place, and brainstorm how you could make your building more sustainable. For example, you could work with your condo association or building management to improve the recycling program, or distribute a box of conservation supplies (compact fluorescent light bulbs, green cleaning solutions, etc.) to your neighbors. Implement your ideas and track environmental benefits.