

# HAVE A ZERO WASTE BLOCK PARTY!

*(Based on the experiences of the Green Block of 300 S Humphrey and ideas from the OPRF Community Foundation and District 90 PTO Environmental Health & Safety Committee)*

## EATING AND DRINKING

- Use table cloths from home rather than disposable plastic or paper cloths.
- Avoid disposable cups, plates or utensils. Bring reusable cups, plates and utensils from home. Teach the kids the difference between creating or preventing waste!
- As a second best, use biodegradable plates, cups and flatware (made from corn/soy agricultural waste products and will biodegrade in landfills within 40+days).
- Switch from single use beverages in cans or bottles to large pitchers of your favorite beverages for the whole family.
- Prepare and enjoy local, organic food from the Farmer's Market or your own gardens. Consider raising different things and sharing them at the Block Party.
- Avoid using paper napkins. Consider cloth napkins (they reduce waste and they don't fly away).

## ACTIVITIES

- Walk to the Farmer's Market as a group of households from your block. Include pets, wagons, tricycles, scooters, etc! Buy some yummy stuff for the Block Party.
- Decorate rain barrels that have been purchased ahead of time. The kids can be involved in painting them with waterproof paint, and then someone who knows how can help you hook them up!
- Have a worm bin exhibit to learn more about composting with worms
- Have a garden walk to enjoy each other's efforts, and find out who to trade plants with!
- Have a compost bin walk to learn more about how to compost from someone who does.
- Invite guests such as Bike Ambassador, VOP Recycle Coordinator, composting or native plant landscape expert.
- Play games outdoors with low utility usage (egg toss, sprinkler, croquet, pet parade, talent show, sing along, bike/trike/scooter/wagon parade).
- Ask all households to complete a Survey of green practices, total them up, and track improvement each year.

## **CLEANING UP** (this is where the real measure of "Zero" or "Minimal" Waste happens)

- Have three containers for waste: **RECYCLE, COMPOST, LANDFILL**
- Compost all food items except meat and dairy (egg shells OK)
- Recycle everything possible
- Measure how much your block party has created for Landfill. Try to get it down to ZERO!
- Use eco-friendly cleaning products (or vinegar/water mixture) to clean up the tables. Avoid paper or disposable wipes.

**HAVE FUN BEING GREEN TOGETHER!**