

Green New Year's Resolutions



Environmental Services

Capital Regional District | January 2022

Big changes are made up of little actions and achieving our regional targets around reducing waste and carbon pollution are only possible if everybody does their part. So, if you're still in need of a resolution for 2022 we've got a few ideas that won't just be good for you — they're good for the environment too!



Here are 8 New Year's resolution ideas to help make 2022 a green one:

- 1. Save water at home:** By striving for 5 minute showers, checking your toilets for leaks once per year and only running full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine, you can help [save water at home](#). Reducing water waste not only helps conserve our region's water supply, it'll also save you money.
- 2. Manage rainwater and runoff:** Help reduce pollution and impacts from flooding by reducing the amount of rainwater flowing [from your property into storm drains](#). Consider installing a properly designed rain barrel or rain garden or replacing impervious surfaces on your property with more pervious ones (e.g. grass, gravel).
- 3. Take out a Climate Action To-Go Kit from your local library:** These free kits contain tools and activities to help you take action on climate change at home, like discovering air leaks or measuring how much electricity your appliances use. Peek inside the kit with [this unboxing video](#) from the Greater Victoria Public Library.
- 4. Ditch the car one day a week:** Driving gas vehicles is our region's greatest source of carbon pollution. Choosing to [walk, bike or take transit](#) to your destination is beneficial for your health, and helps fight climate change.
- 5. Reduce, reuse, then recycle:** Reduce the use of single-use items — carry a reusable mug or water bottle, reusable bags, pack a lunch in reusable containers, etc. If you have an item you no longer want, see if it can be donated or reused. If it's broken, see if it can be repaired before recycling it or throwing it out.
- 6. Test your recycling knowledge:** Find out if you're recycling all that you can with our waste sorting game [Ready, Set, Sort!](#), also available on the free [RecycleCRD app](#). Once you know what goes where, it'll be much easier to keep your house clutter-free! Common household items like batteries, lightbulbs, paint, plastic bags and other flexible plastic packaging (e.g. chip bags and crinkly wrappers) can be dropped off free of charge at many locations, including the Hartland Depot. Find a drop-off near you at www.myrecyclopedia.ca.
- 7. Support biodiversity in your backyard:** [Supporting biodiversity](#) benefits us all and you can help by planting native plants in your yard, or on your balcony, keeping a fresh source of water outside (e.g. dish, bird bath) and leaving brush piles, sticks, and leaves in your garden to create wildlife shelter.
- 8. Join a stewardship group:** Help clean, protect and enhance local natural areas by volunteering with a [stewardship group](#) in your community to remove invasive species, plant native plants or do a beach cleanup.

Making a difference is just that easy — pick a resolution or two and let's get started!

For more green resolution ideas, visit www.crd.bc.ca/memories.

