

GRH Landlord

Renter Engagement

Toolkit

Landlords can distribute the contents of this packet to get 22 points on the Green Rental Housing Checklist through the following:

- Energy Efficiency Messaging (2 points): Page 2
- Food Waste Prevention Messaging (2 points): Pages 3-4
- Rental Sustainability Sessions (10 points): Page 5
- Local Food Information (2 points): Pages 6-7
- Severe Weather Alerts (2 points): Page 8
- Energy Efficiency Materials (2 points): Pages 9-10
- Waste Disposal Information (2 points): Pages 11-13





TOP 3 THINGS **RENTERS** CAN DO TODAY TO **SAVE ENERGY**

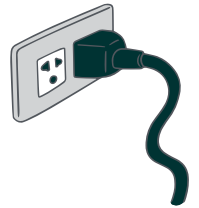
✓ **Program your thermostat to 78 in summer and 68 in winter.**

Or as close to that as comfortable. And turn your heat/AC down even more when you leave for the day. Each degree could save you up to 3% on your annual energy bill.



✓ **Wash your clothes in cold water and dry them on the lowest setting.**

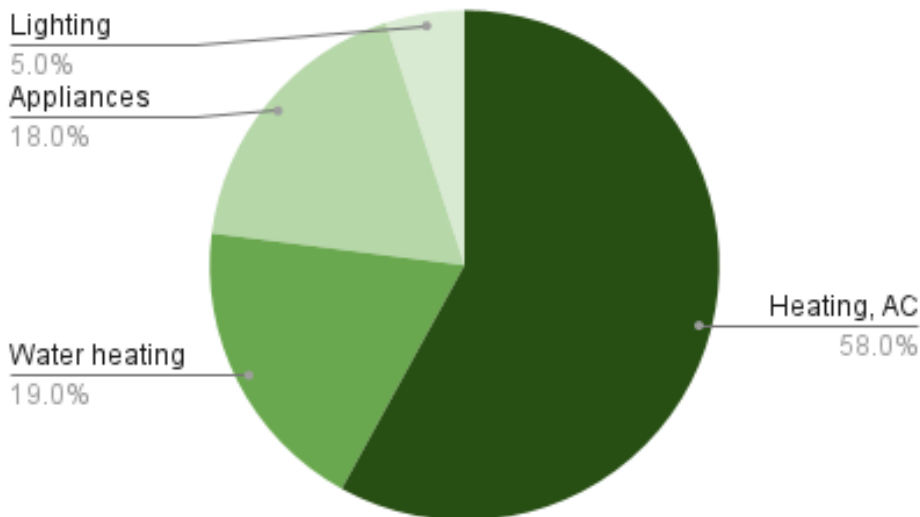
This will also protect your clothes from wearing out quickly!



✓ **Unplug phone chargers, TVs, and laptops when not in use.**

Use smart power strips to make this easier and avoid wasting money on "phantom loads."

Home energy use for Michigan renters



Data from EIA 2015 Residential Energy Consumption Survey

Why these 3?

They'll help you save in the **biggest categories** of home energy use!

Find more energy-saving tips on our website:



Our city is working hard to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

Renters like you have a big role to play in helping us get there - did you know that 55% of our city's housing stock is rentals, and $\frac{2}{3}$ of our city's emissions come from energy use in buildings?

Ann Arbor's Green Rental Housing program is trying to make sure every rental in our city is more energy efficient, but we need your help too - **make a pledge to take one of these 3 energy saving actions today!**

SAVE ON GROCERIES. WASTE LESS FOOD.



40% of food in the United States goes uneaten.

That means wasted resources, energy, and money. It also causes harm to our climate. Small changes at home can help save you money and protect the planet.

Try a few of these simple tips to help you waste less food.



Buy only what you need

- **Create a flexible, realistic meal plan.** Decide what you need before going to the store.
- **Make a shopping list** based on your meal plan and stick to it! Resist bargains and impulse buys.
- **Purchase the amount you need.** Shop from bulk bins and buy loose fruits and vegetables instead of pre-packaged foods.

Keep food fresh longer with proper storage.

- **Use a food storage guide** to learn how to keep food fresh longer.
- **First in, first out.** Rotate items in your fridge and pantry so you know to use older items first.
- **Use clear containers** so you can see what needs to be eaten.



Make the most of your food



- **Love your leftovers.** Plan a weekly leftovers night as part of your meal plan.
- **Freeze what you can't finish.** Pack extra food in small portions in clear containers, then freeze for easy cooking later!
- **Bring food back to life.** Learn how to revive wilted greens and produce.
- **Share food** with friends, family, and neighbors when you have too much.

What do date labels really mean?

Date labels are set by food manufacturers to indicate when a food is at its best quality, not when food is no longer safe to eat. With the exception of **infant formula**, date labels are not required by federal regulation.



SELL BY:

Sell by labels recommend to a store when to sell a food so that it still has a shelf life when you take it home.

You can eat food after the sell by date. Sell by dates are not an indicator of food safety.

BEST BEFORE:

"Best Before / Best By" labels mean the food will be at its best quality or flavor before the printed date.

You can still eat food after the best by date. Best by dates are not an indicator of food safety.

USE BY:

"Use By" labels mean that the food will begin to lose quality after that date. It does not mean that the food is no longer safe to eat.

Infant formula is the only exception - it should never be used after the "Use By" date.

Renter Sustainability Session

Green Rental Housing is a new ordinance to set a minimum baseline of health, comfort, and energy efficiency to ensure our tenants have a place not just to live in, but to thrive in, as we work towards our carbon neutrality goals.

Find out about energy efficient behaviors renters can adopt with our Renter Sustainability Session.



<https://www.a2gov.org/sustainability-innovations-home/sustainability-me/for-families-individuals/for-renters/>

FIND LOCAL FARMS & MARKETS NEAR YOU



WHY BUY LOCAL FOOD?

Our food choices matter. Producing, processing, packaging, and transporting food has a large impact on our climate, environment, communities, and health!

Not only can eating local bolster the area's food and farming economy, but getting to know your farmer is a great way to learn more about where your food comes from and how it is grown, which can help you make informed decisions about if a product is a good fit for you.

Here are a few more reasons you might choose to buy local food:

LOCAL FOOD IS **DELICIOUS**

Local food is often fresher and lasts longer than produce shipped from further away.

LOCAL FOOD IS **SUSTAINABLE**

Many local farms are smaller in size and have growing practices that are gentler on the planet.

LOCAL FOOD IS **RESILIENT**

A strong local food economy is essential to ensure community food security, now and in the future.



SCAN HERE

For a list of local farms, farm stores, and farmers markets near Ann Arbor.





ANN ARBOR FARMERS MARKET

The Ann Arbor Farmers Market in Kerrytown brings fresh produce, farm products, prepared foods, and artisan items to the community **year-round!** With 125 vendors from Michigan, the market is an vibrant source of local food in our community.



SUPPORT LOCAL BY JOINING A CSA PROGRAM NEAR YOU

A Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program is a great way to support a local farm while receiving regular deliveries of fresh, seasonal produce.



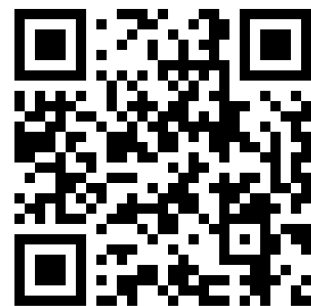
To find a CSA program near you, scan the QR code or visit <https://michigancsanetwork.org/find-a-csa>



GET MORE FRUITS & VEGETABLES WITH **DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS**

Use your Bridge Card to save on local food and get double the fruits and vegetables with Double Up Food Bucks.

To find a participating location, scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/DUFBLocation>.



EMERGENCY ALERTS

Wireless Emergency Alerts

The Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) System is a nationwide program that can broadcast alerts to every cellular device within a boundary. These alerts do not require registration! They will be sent automatically based on location. Critical messages that require immediate action from the public will be sent out via the WEA system.

Everbridge

Ann Arbor utilizes the Everbridge System to share critical information regarding public safety. Examples of alerts you may receive from Everbridge include severe weather alerts (thunderstorms, winter weather), tornado watches/warnings, and other emergencies that the public needs to be aware of. Sign up for these alerts at a2gov.org/alerts.

Scan this QR code to learn
more about Emergency
Communications in
Ann Arbor





HOW TO TALK TO **YOUR LANDLORD** ABOUT WEATHERIZATION **(PART 1)**

Did you know that the median year built for Ann Arbor rentals is **1964**, which was **before Michigan required energy efficiency to be considered in buildings?**

If you are renting an older apartment or home, check out our website for videos that will show you how to:

- Check around your windows and doors for air leaks.
- Check if your lighting and shower head are efficient.



ONCE YOU IDENTIFY ENERGY EFFICIENCY ISSUES IN YOUR APARTMENT, **EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS:**

Start Small

Ask your landlord to

- Swap all your lightbulbs with **LEDs**
- Have your HVAC **air filter replaced**
- **Provide user manuals** for your appliances

Basic DIY

Make these **temporary** improvements (Check with your landlord first)

- Window films
- Removable rope caulking
- Window insulation kits

Bigger Impact

With your landlord's approval

- Washtenaw County's **free weatherization** program will update worn down insulation, heating systems, and more if you qualify

Schedule a **free home energy assessment** from the Ann Arbor Home Energy Advisor to learn about more options you can take advantage of.



Photo: Pinterest

For tips on how to ask for your landlord's support in fixing any air leaks...

FLIP ME



HOW TO TALK TO YOUR LANDLORD ABOUT WEATHERIZATION (PART 2)

NEXT, EXPLAIN TO YOUR LANDLORD THE BENEFITS:

1. Better insulated homes don't just keep energy in, they also keep bad things out! Weatherizing a home reduces the risk of mold damage to a property and reduces the effects of childhood asthma.
2. Tenants are more likely to stick with a landlord who helps them out, allowing landlords to avoid the costs of tenant turnover.
3. The Green Rental Housing Program requires a minimum energy efficiency in rental units. Ask them what they are doing to comply.

Start with a request for a conversation, not a complaint. For example:

“

My apartment has been pretty drafty and hasn't been able to keep a decent temperature this winter. I've been working from home more so this has become a big comfort issue for me. Would you be open to talking about ways to improve this?

”



Photo: istockphoto.com



Photo: Canva

Find "How To" videos on
how to properly install
DIY window films or rope
caulking on our website:



Do not put in the trash

Some items are dangerous. They can harm people, equipment, or the environment.

When in doubt, leave it out. recycleannarbor.org/a-z-recycling-guide



No loose packing materials like peanuts. Bag instead.



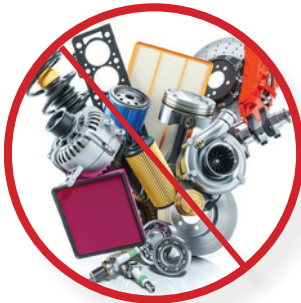
No furniture or appliances.



No TV's, monitors, or computers. Electronics are accepted at select stores and the Drop-off Station.



No construction materials such as concrete, bricks or lumber..



No automobile parts. Motor oil is accepted at city collection centers, auto stores and quick lube facilities.



No lithium or lithium ion rechargeable batteries. Most are accepted by the Drop-Off Station and Home Toxics Center.



No liquids, with or without a container.



No logs, branches, or other yard materials. Compost instead.



No home toxics including oil-based paint. They should be taken to the Home Toxics Center.

Where can these items go?

- Recycle Ann Arbor Drop-Off Station (DOS), 2950 E. Ellsworth Rd., 734.971.7400
- Recycle Ann Arbor Recovery Yard, 7891 Jackson Rd., 734.426.2280
- Washtenaw County Home Toxics Center, 705 N. Zeeb Rd., 734.222.3950
- WeCare Denali Ann Arbor Composting Facility, 4150 Platt Rd., 734.477.0334



Additional questions? Call 734.994.7336 | a2gov.org

City of Ann Arbor Curbside Recycling

YES! RECYCLE WITH CONFIDENCE.



All items must be clean, dry, & empty.

- Screw caps onto plastic
- Remove caps from glass
- Flatten cardboard
- Labels may be left on.



Metal



Plastic Bottles & Tubs



Glass



Aseptic Containers



Mixed Paper



Cardboard & Boxboard

NO. WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT.



Many of these items can be recycled at drop-off recycling centers.

Please visit
www.a2gov.org/recycle
for additional details.



Plastic Bags & Film



Cups



Styrofoam™



Batteries & Electronics



Glass & Ceramic Dishes



Textiles



Food Waste



Syringes



Lightbulbs



Automotive & Liquids

The City of Ann Arbor contracts with Recycle Ann Arbor for residential recycling collection and the Drop-Off Station 734-662-6288 / www.recycleannarbor.org

For more information please visit www.a2gov.org/recycle



Residential Composting Guidelines

What can go in my compost cart?

fruits, vegetables,
pits, & peels



dairy & eggs



bread, grains, pasta,
& rice



meat & bones



plate scrapings



food scraps



grass clippings



branches <6" diameter



yard trimmings

leaves



brush
& weeds



CMA-W products*

*Fiber/paper only
No bamboo, palm
leaf, or plastics.



a2gov.org/compost