

THE 7 ACTION PACKAGES

Here's where you get to pick your action pack! In each of our seven packages, you find fun and inspiring actions you and your neighbours can take to advance lighter living here in British Columbia. The packages focus on actions that have the highest footprint impact, covering priority areas like how we eat, how we move around, how we live in our homes and the stuff we buy.

TIP!

START WITH WHATEVER PACKAGE SEEMS LIKE THE BEST FIT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY. ONCE YOU'VE FINISHED ONE, TAKE ON ANOTHER — OR COMMIT TO THE LIGHTER LIVING SUPER CHALLENGE!

We're here to guide you on your journey. Share your experiences and get in touch anytime at info@oneearthweb.org

The 7 action packages are:



1

BUILDING ON THE BLOCK PARTY

Have fun hosting your neighbours, with a lasting impact on everyone's lighter living practices.

2

GOOD STUFF

Extend the lives of everyday things and enjoy less waste, more sharing and more meaningful experiences.

3

BIG WINS

Support long-term choices that have the greatest impact in reducing our ecological and climate footprints.

4

NEXT-LEVEL FOOD

Fuel healthy eating practices that are better for the planet through plant-rich meals and less food waste.

5

LIFE CHANGES

Foster new habits and traditions during periods of big life transition, from moving to retiring to having kids.

6

CULTIVATING CONNECTION

Build a fairer, more inclusive community, inspired by both new and traditional living practices.

7

LIGHTER LIVING SUPER CHALLENGE

Be bold!

Commit to sustained, multi-year, lighter living action in your neighbourhood.

1

BUILDING ON THE BLOCK PARTY

Block parties are a popular, fun and appealing neighbourhood activity. And there are lots of ways to take these great community events even further, with a lighter living twist.

It's time to build on
the block party!



Why block parties?

Across Southwest BC, block parties are a common way that neighbours create community, and for residents to stay connected. Many block parties have been running for 25 years and have never missed a year!

Kids that grew up playing at block parties in their neighbourhood have grown up to be the adults organizing those same events. The regularity, dependability and appeal of block parties creates an opportunity to engage residents in the lighter living conversation in new ways.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 100s of block parties every year in Metro Vancouver — and more across BC. You can apply for a \$500 Neighbourhood Small Grant to support a local project: neighbourhoodsmallgrants.ca



Car Free Day 2016:
Main Street from Broadway
to 30th Avenue, Vancouver.
(credit: Car Free Day Vancouver)

LIGHTER LIVING OPPORTUNITY

You can build lighter living into your block party by:

- Making it zero waste
- Giving it a broader lighter living theme
- Showcasing lighter living opportunities available to local residents
- Highlighting the value of block parties for helping neighbours connect, build understanding and boost community resilience

How to take action

You may already be doing things in your daily life that model the change you want to see. Practicing these at home and starting a conversation with your neighbours is powerful. But remember, to have an even bigger impact, you'll want to engage others as well!

JUST YOU

- Bring reusable dishware and decorations to the party
- Use active transit (walking, cycling, etc.) to get there
- Volunteer to help plan a sustainable event
- Share your own lighter living experiences and stories with neighbours at the event

Check off the things you're already doing or are inspired to do!

YOU & A FEW OTHERS

- Supply water coolers and reusable dishware to reduce disposable items
- Shop for party food in bulk, then shrink portion sizes to reduce waste
- Arrange for recycling options
- Provide maps of local cycling infrastructure or rideshare options to help reduce car use
- Conduct an audit of the walkability of your neighbourhood to improve transport options and safety concerns
- Create a competition to reduce home energy or water use

YOU & YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Theme your party around lighter living (e.g., energy savings), or align it with Car Free Day or Buy Nothing Day
- Make the event zero waste
- Invite sharing, reuse and repair businesses to showcase their services
- Share lighter living skills in person (e.g., vegetarian cooking) or have a sign-up for starting a skills exchange.
- Use the event to organize neighbourhood improvement campaigns (e.g., a green team)
- Celebrate lighter living stories and local champions (e.g., housing efficiency retrofits)

USE THIS SPACE TO ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS!

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WHO CAN YOU TEAM UP WITH TO MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT?

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DID YOU KNOW?



Car Free Day Vancouver started in protest to a highway widening project that would have increased traffic in the Grandview-Woodland neighbourhood.

Key questions to ask

Add your
thoughts →

- ❖ How can you make the block party (and similar events) accessible to all neighbours?
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- ❖ What information, services, skills and opportunities could you showcase at the party to celebrate local lighter living initiatives?
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- ❖ How could the event be more than a one-day party, serving to support new actions, behaviours and cultural norms?
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- ❖ Can you build on an existing community event, such as Car Free Day, with an add-on for your neighbours?
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- ❖ What does a “block party” look like when you live in a rural community? Can you link to existing community events?
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- ❖ How can your neighbourhood stay connected throughout the year — to remain focused on lighter living efforts and maintain the social benefits of working as a community?
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Explore and get inspiration for your own journey

Green event planning guides, like those from the [City of Vancouver](#) and [Zero Waste Vancouver](#), help you rethink the amount of waste, energy and materials consumed during event prep and activities.

Bike repair services could be a fun block party feature. Check out [Bike Kitchen at UBC](#), [Kickstand in Vancouver](#) and [HUB Cycling](#), which could also help run a bike valet for the event.

Want to power your event sustainably? Check out the solar-powered generators from [Portable Electric](#), or offer a [pedal power station](#) where attendees can hop on a bike to generate electricity.

Car Free Vancouver organizes artisan markets and other festivals at the neighbourhood scale that encourage lighter living practices like leaving your car at home and going zero waste.

For help with waste management, you can work with groups like the [Binnars Project](#) (waste-pickers) to hire folks to monitor disposal stations and make sure items are sorted correctly.



Richmond
Night Market
(credit: RNM)

SPOTLIGHT

Leveraging Car Free Day

By holding their block party the same weekend as the Car Free Day festivities, Kitsilano residents were able to build on the momentum to enjoy the neighbourhood car free, but also create family-friendly spaces tucked away from the larger festivities where neighbours could connect with one another.

The block parties served as a time for neighbours to enjoy time with one another and featured fun activities like skills sharing and a potluck meal, as well as music, games and a talent show.

The Neighbourhood Small Grants team assisted organizers in applying for permits from the City of Vancouver, coordinating street barricades, featuring the local business improvement association (BIA) in gift baskets, and creating a space that encouraged connection and community.



*Kitsilano Neighbourhood
Block Party on Car Free Day
Vancouver Weekend, 2019.
(credit: Kitsilano.ca)*