This guide is designed to help Providence community members make their neighborhoods greener, healthier, and more vibrant.

It includes information on specific actions that can be taken to improve your community, as well as important city services and resources that are available to the public.

Follow the Office of Sustainability at SustainPVD.org for news and updates.
Contents

4-5  Office of Sustainability

6  PVD 311

7-12  Tips for Neighborhood Greening

13-18  City & Community Resources

19-22  Take Action
The Office of Sustainability promotes sustainability through six topic areas:

- Energy
- Water
- Zero Waste
- Transportation
- Food
- Land Use & Development
You can track the progress of these topic areas and new developments online at the Sustainability Dashboard.

- **Completed Priority Actions Climate**: 1
- **Miles of Bicycle Infrastructure**: 28.4 Miles
- **Municipal Energy Use**: 409,821 MMbtu (on track)
- **Annual Net Gain in Trees**: 86 trees (needs improvement)

You can find the Sustainability Dashboard at [SustainPVD.org](http://SustainPVD.org)
If you have a neighborhood issue to report or a question regarding city services, contact PVD 311.

MAYOR’S CENTER FOR CITY SERVICES (MCCS)

Top issues:

- Trash/litter on public streets or sidewalks
- Substandard Housing/Code Violations
- Missed Trash/Recycling/Yard Waste pickups
- Graffiti
- Potholes
- Snow Plowing, Salting or Sanding
- Sidewalk repairs
- Street Lights

Call 3-1-1

If calling from within Providence - dial 311

Visit online

Visit online at - www.providenceri.com/pvd311

Download app

Visit iTunes & Google Play Store for smart phone app
Tips for Neighborhood Greening
Free Home Energy Audits
National Grid offers home energy assessments that provide information on how to save energy and reduce your utility bills at home. To sign up, call RISE Engineering at (800) 422-5365 or go to RISE Engineering.

Go Solar!
Consider photovoltaic panels to generate electricity for your home or business. Visit Go Solar Providence at SustainPVD.org.

Request a Street Tree Planting
You and your neighbors can easily apply for a grant to get free trees planted on your street from the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP).

Free Home Energy Audits
National Grid offers home energy assessments that provide information on how to save energy and reduce your utility bills at home. To sign up, call RISE Engineering at (800) 422-5365 or go to RISE Engineering.
Participate In Your Local Parks Events

A variety of fitness, music, and art activities happen in local parks all the time. Follow the Providence Parks Department, Partnership for Public Parks (PPP), and the Healthy Communities Office (HCO) for more information!

Throw Your Own Event

Want to throw an event in a Providence Park? Contact Art, Culture + Tourism (AC+T) first. You will also need to contact Providence Parks.
Grow Your Own Food
Grow some of your own food in your backyard or local community garden. Check out Southside Community Land Trust or URI's Land Grant Program for more info on community gardens.

Join a Friends of Parks Programs
Join (or start) your local park’s friends group. Learn about more opportunities at Partnership for Providence Parks (PPP).
Walk, Bike, or Take RIPTA to Work

Walk or take advantage of new bike infrastructure around Providence. Avoid using your car when possible.

Be a Better & Safer Biker

- Always wear a helmet
- Stay visible with bright colors
- Use a headlight at night
- Learn the rules of the road
Recycle Your Plastic, Paper, Glass, and Cans

Recycle all clean plastic containers up to 2 gallons, paper, glass and cans in designated city recycling bins. Learn more about what can be recycled at Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC).

Compost

Consider composting in your backyard to keep organic waste out of the landfill.
At City Hall you can:
Report a case to 311
Change voting registration
Get a Birth/Death/Marriage Certificate, License
Pay Taxes
Get Public Property Information
Get a document notarized
Visit City Council Chambers
Visit Probrate Court
Access City Archives
Neighborhood Parks

The heart and soul of the Providence park system are its Neighborhood Parks. Providence is proud to offer a diverse park system that spans over 100 parks in neighborhoods throughout the city.

Learn more about the neighborhood parks nearest you with the Park Story Map on City of Providence’s Department of Parks website.
A variety of organizations offer meeting spaces that are free to reserve and book if the purpose of the meetings are community oriented. Contact these organizations for more information on meeting spaces:

- **Tri-Lab, Swearer Center for Public Service at Brown University**
  10 Davol Square, #001
  Providence, RI 02912
- **Providence Community Library**
  http://www.provcomlib.org/
- **Providence Public Library**
  http://www.provlib.org/
Want to host a neighborhood festival, block-party, parade, fundraiser, or other event open to the general public?

First contact the Office of Arts, Culture + Tourism

Public Event Permit Application

The Public Events Permit has been developed for any person or group that wants to conduct a public special event in the City of Providence.

To house a public event you must fill out a Public Events Permit Application online or contact the Office of Arts, Culture + Tourism.

(401)-421-7740
Want to host a neighborhood festival block-party, parade, fundraiser, or other event open to the general public?

**Step 1**  
Office of Arts, Culture + Tourism  
The AC+T Public Events Permit Application is the first place to start if you want to host an event.

**Step 2**  
**Parks Department**  
If the event is to take place in a Providence Park, you will then have to contact the Parks Department.

Hmanning@providenceri.gov  
(401)-680-7240

**Recreation Department**  
If the event is to take place in a Providence Recreation Department, you will then have to contact the Recreation Department.

spiscopiello@providenceri.com or  
(401)-421-7740 x323
Take action to help in the community-wide sustainability initiative to make Providence a greener, healthier, more livable city.

Follow the Office of Sustainability at SustainPVD.org for news and updates.
Energy

SIGN UP FOR A NO COST ENERGY ASSESSMENT

National Grid offers home energy assessments that provide information on how to save energy and reduce your utility bills at home. To sign up, call RISE Engineering at (800) 422-5365 or go to RISE Engineering.

FIND YOUR FOUR!

Visit FindYourFour.com to identify four simple energy actions you can take to reduce your energy usage.

GO SOLAR

Consider photovoltaic panels to generate electricity for your home or business.

http://www.providenceri.gov/sustainability/go-solar-providence/

Water

CONSERVE WATER

Practice water conservation to both protect the environment and to save money. To see how, visit EPA’s WaterSense.

REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF

When it rains, dog poop, lawn chemicals, oil spills and other pollutants get carried by stormwater runoff into our lakes, ponds, and streams. Click here for more information and tips on how you can do your part.

PLANT A TREE

You and your neighbors can easily apply for a grant to get free trees planted on your street from the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP).
Zero Waste

**RECYCLE YOUR PLASTIC, PAPER, CLASS, AND CANS**

Recycle all clean plastic containers up to 2 gallons, paper, glass and cans in designated city recycling bins. Learn more about what can be recycled.

**COMPOST**

Consider composting in your backyard to keep organic waste out of the landfill.

Drop off your food scraps at your neighborhood compost site. Visit Healthy Communities to find the nearest site.

Compost your leaf and yard waste April – December by placing in paper bags or in a clearly labeled open barrel on your regular trash day.

**RECYCLE YOUR USED TEXTILES AT GOODWILL**

Recycle your used textiles at Goodwill Industries and portion of the proceeds from the collected materials will help to fund recreation programs in Providence parks.

**USE RE-USEABLE SHOPPING BAGS**

Avoid plastic shopping bags and take your own to the store. Buying products without excess packaging and bringing your own shopping bags reduces energy usage and keeps excess waste out of municipal landfills, our waterways, and the ocean.

Transportation

**WALK, BIKE, AND TAKE RIPTA**

Avoid using your car when possible. Encourage your employer to offer better commuter benefits such as public transportation passes, bike racks, and in-office showers. Track your green trips and get rewards via NuRide!

When you do use your car, use it more efficiently. Accelerating slowly and smoothly, driving the speed limit, maintaining a steady speed, and anticipating your stops and starts can save more than a ton of carbon dioxide per year.

**BE A BETTER AND SAFER BIKER**

Always wear a helmet, stay visible with bright colors and a headlight at night, learn bicycling hand signals, and follow all rules of the road.

**CARPOOL**

Carpool to school or work using websites such as NuRide.
Food

GROW YOUR OWN FOOD
Grow some of your own food in your backyard or local community garden. Check out Southside Community Land Trust or URI’s Land Grant Program for more info on community gardens.

SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS AND RESTAURANTS
Farm Fresh RI offers a comprehensive local food guide. 22 farmers markets in Rhode Island including 10 in Providence listed on the website accept SNAP/EBT.

JOIN A CSA
Sign up for a locally sourced market share or community supported agriculture (CSA) to get food fresh from the farm every week.

Land Use & Development

STAY INFORMED
Attend public meetings about new developments and challenge developers to think about community and environmental sustainability.
Show support for your community

Support community benefits agreements when there is a proposed development being planned for your neighborhood that could create jobs for neighborhood residents, provide affordable housing, or bring other value to the area.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL PARK’S FRIENDS GROUP
Join your local park’s friends group. Learn about more opportunities at the Partnership for Providence Parks.

HELP TRANSFORM VACANT LOTS AND BUILDINGS
Be proactive about vacant lots or empty buildings in your neighborhood that could be rehabilitated into positive community spaces. Talk to staff in the City Planning office or at the Rhode Island DEM.