



# SUSTAINABLE STEPS

Brought to you by Arielle Gerstein  
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## Green Liaisons' Printing Reduction Competition Kick-Off

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### What is Green Liaisons?

Green Liaisons is a group of County employees from each department focused on recycling and other sustainable practices within the County. Its first Countywide competition will focus on reducing printing in the office.

### Printing Reduction Competition Details

The competition will be held from May to October 2022. The number of pages each department prints during this time period will be compared to the number of pages printed from the same time period in 2021. The department who has the largest overall percentage reduction will win a special prize!

### Why is printing harmful to the environment?

Although a majority of paper is recycled, paper is still produced from cutting down trees which have a long list of positive environmental benefits including capturing greenhouse gases, reducing stormwater runoff which may reduce the effects of flooding, and serving as a habitat and food source for many species.

Another issue is the printer itself with additional energy used to power the equipment and toner cartridges which end up in landfills if they are not recycled and sent back to the company who produced them. Toner cartridges take an estimated 400 to 1,000 years to breakdown in landfills.

Some tips for reducing your printing:

- Print double-sided copies
- Go digital – for meetings, send presentations or other information, like agendas, to attendees in advance and display the information on a screen in the conference room
- Print in black and white whenever possible
- Choose fonts that use less ink – the weight of the letters affect how ink-efficient fonts can be – for example, Times New Roman, Calibri, and Century Gothic all outperform Arial in terms of ink usage

If your department or office doesn't currently recycle toner cartridges, follow these instructions below to start recycling:

RICOH: [Click here](#) and scroll towards bottom for prepaid tab. Keep the box that the new toner comes in and just fill it with the empty ones to send back.

Lexmark: If you get the toner option that is part of the Lexmark Cartridge Collection Program (LCCP) it comes with the label in each box. If you order an option not in the LCCP, you can [click here](#) to print a label - step 3 has the link for the label. You can request 1 or 5.

## Electric Lawn Equipment Expo

On April 30, 2022, Charleston County and the City of Charleston are hosting an Electric Lawn Care Expo at the Lowes in West Ashley (3125 Glenn McConnell Parkway) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This expo will showcase a host of battery-powered lawn equipment you can see, try and buy! Residents have the opportunity for a \$50 OFF of battery-powered equipment.

- Featuring battery-powered leaf blowers, edgers, trimmers, chainsaws, push and riding mowers, and more!
- Compare brands such as EGO, CRAFTSMAN, BLACK+DECKER, WORX, Kobalt and more!
- Watch equipment demonstrations from industry experts, test products, and ask questions!

### Why buy electric?

- Produces less noise
- Protects clean air, water and health
- Combats climate change
- Reduces maintenance costs and easier to use
- Proven reliable and powerful
- Competitive pricing

To learn more about the expo, check out the [City's website](#).

## Community Development Hosts Homeowner Energy Conservation Workshop

On Thursday, April 14, the Department of Community Development along with the Sustainability Institute, Charleston County's Sustainability Coordinator, and the NC Recreation Department hosted a Homeowner Energy Conservation

Workshop for local residents at the Jeanne Batten Community Center in North Charleston. The workshop provided information to residents about the importance of saving energy and water not only for the economic benefits with reduced utility bills but also to live more sustainably. The workshop focused on simple mechanical fixes residents could implement in their homes. The Sustainability Institute's AmeriCorps crew gave the presentation and answered the residents' questions. Each resident was provided with a free energy and water savings kit so they could easily implement practices they learned in the workshop.



## New Sustainability Video Released: What is Sustainability?

If you are interested in learning more about sustainability and ways you can implement sustainable practices in the workplace, [click here](#) to watch this short video.

If you have a **Sustainable Steps** idea, send it to Arielle at [AGerstein@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:AGerstein@charlestoncounty.org).