

BOISE WATERSHED

Weekly Challenge

Welcome to the WaterShed Weekly Challenge. Every week during the summer the Boise WaterShed will release one challenge for people at home to complete. These challenges will focus on a STEM topic and each completed challenge will give you one raffle ticket for a chance to win a family membership to the Discovery Center of Idaho. The raffle will take place at the end of the summer! The more challenges you complete, the better your chances of winning are. Every participant in this program through the spring and summer will receive a packet of goodies from the Boise WaterShed. You can complete these challenges at any point throughout the summer. See below for how to submit a completed challenge. We would love to share your experiences with these challenges. If you take any pictures or videos of completing or working on these challenges, send them to us and we will feature them every Friday on a special Facebook shout-out message. You can also tag us on Facebook, @BoiseWS.

WEEK 2: LET'S TALK TRASH CHALLENGE

Trash is a dirty subject, but one that is very important! Every civilization has had waste problems, especially ours. This challenge is going to ask you to look at the trash you create and try to find ways to lower the amount you are throwing away. Generally, when it comes to waste, we like to follow the 3 R's. REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE. The most important R is the first R, REDUCE. REUSE is the 2nd most important R and RECYCLE should be what do with a waste that cannot be reused. Your challenge today is going to follow the three R's so be prepared to talk about trash! Once you are finished with the challenge, fill out the short questionnaire at the bottom and send it to bw@cityofboise.org along with the names and addresses of the participants. Include any pictures or videos that you would like to share!

REDUCE

The things that we throw away every day have a huge impact on our planet. They fill landfills, and even worse, a lot of the time end up in streets, parks, water, and forests. Even objects that we recycle will eventually become waste that gets thrown into a landfill or ends up as pollution. The good news is that reducing the amount of solid waste that we are throwing away is simple and one of the best ways to support a more sustainable world.

For this challenge, we want you to find one way that you can reduce the amount of waste that you throw away. You can go through your trash bin to catalog some of the things you are throwing away. Just spending a few minutes looking at your waste can help you identify which objects you are throwing away the most, and that is usually a good place to start your reduction mission.

Once you have an idea of the things that you throw away or recycle, make a plan! The Boise WaterShed Team gets a lot of information from the Zero Waste Boise Institute. This Non-profit is a great place to get information on resources and reusing or reducing different trash!

For the Challenge: Write down a short summary (1-2 sentences) of your plan to REDUCE waste in your household:

REUSE

Reusing things is one of the best ways to make sure waste doesn't pollute or go to the landfill. This part of the challenge is going to ask you to find one piece of waste in your home and to find a use for it. There are hundreds of ways to reuse things you are going to throw away. Use the internet for inspiration, you can even check out a Boise WaterShed Reusable Bag Craft that we did for Earth Day!

For the Challenge: Take a picture or write down how you managed to reuse some of your waste:

RECYCLE

Even though recycling isn't the best way to lower the number of things you are throwing away, it is still an important part of how we limit the impact of our waste. For this part of the challenge, we are going to ask you to find one piece of waste that can fit into each of the categories below. Use the links to find information from our Curb-it Team.

COMPOST: Composting is using organic materials to create fertilizers. You can do at-home composting or you can compost through the City of Boise compost program.

For the Challenge: What is one thing from your waste that could be composted?

HEFTY® ENERGY BAG® PROGRAM: The city of Boise participates in a new way to collect plastics. If you participate in this program, awesome! If you do not or you want some more information, check this link.

Optional for the Challenge: What is one thing from your waste that goes into the energy bag?

RECYCLING: There is curbside recycling in Boise as well as places where you can take recyclables and glass in the city. If you are curious about what can and can't be recycled, check out this link!

For the Challenge: What is one thing that can be recycled from your waste?

TRASH: Even though we want to limit the amount of trash that we create from our waste, getting rid of it responsibly is still important. We do not want it to end up as pollution! Follow the link to find out where your trash goes. If you are in doubt about where a piece of waste goes, throw it in the trash. Certain waste can cause problems at our recycling and composting centers and it is better to throw things away if you are not sure where they go.



QUESTIONNAIRE TO SEND FOR AN ENTRANCE INTO THE DRAWING:

What is one way that you can REDUCE your waste?

What is one way that you can REUSE your waste?

What is one thing you can RECYLCE from your waste?