



New Year's Resolutions for a Greener Durham

Here are some ideas for New Year's Resolutions to help make Durham – and the world – a healthier, greener place to live, work, and play!

- Pick one recyclable thing that you normally throw away and resolve to recycle it. 28% of Durham's residential waste that ends up in the landfill is material that is currently accepted through the household recycling program. So if we all just put it in the recycling cart instead of in the trash, we could make a big dent in our solid waste hauling. Find out what you can recycle and where with this handy [website tool](#) or [this one](#). Some non-obvious things that can get recycled are toilet paper and paper towel tubes, juice boxes, milk containers, and any rigid plastic. Plastic film including bread bags, cereal bags, and shrink wrap from electronics and toys can all be brought with plastic bags to grocery store drop-offs.
- Join the reuse revolution by getting a [Green-to-Go membership](#). Green-to-Go is a local program that allows you to check-out reusable take-out containers from your favorite restaurants and then return them at your convenience. They are adding new restaurants all the time, so subscribers will have more options to eat delicious Durham food at home or on the go without the guilt.
- Get your workplace in shape. Register your workplace for the [Bull City Workplace Challenge](#). We will help you assess how you are doing in terms of sustainable practices, provide resources to improve and expand your green efforts, and give your workplace recognition for the progress you make.
- Sign up to volunteer to beautify Durham. There are lots of opportunities to plant trees, tend community gardens, install pollinator gardens, clean up streams, and more through [Keep Durham Beautiful](#).
- Spend more time enjoying Durham's natural treasures. Whether you explore a new spot each week, or return again and again to your favorite place, make time to unplug and immerse yourself in nature. We are so lucky to have great [city parks](#), [county recreation areas](#), and natural areas including [Eno River](#), [Duke Forest](#), and [Triangle Land Conservancy](#).
- Try bike share. Durham now has three companies with bikes spread throughout town that you can hop on and ride where you need to go. The bikes are "dockless" meaning they don't have to be returned to a special docking station. You can leave them where you end up throughout Durham. Download the apps to get accounts and find bikes. [Lime Bike](#), [Spin](#), [Offo](#).
- Replace your toilets with WaterSense models and get a [\\$100 rebate from the City](#).



- Understand how you are using energy in your home so you can find ways to conserve. Sign-up for [Resispeak](#), a free program developed locally that automatically brings in your Duke Energy, PSNC, and City water bills and then charts your energy use.
- Get more involved in local government. The [City](#) and [County](#) have dozens of boards and commissions and there is sure to be some that interest you. Attend meetings to understand and provide input to shape Durham's future. Or dive a little deeper by applying to be on a board or commission!
- Make your yard more biodiversity-friendly by signing up for the [Voluntary Nutrient Reduction Program](#), buying a [rain barrel](#), [reducing erosion](#), or replacing your lawn with a [rain garden](#).