



Sustainable Kenosha County is an initiative of Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser, in partnership with Kenosha County UW-Extension & Kenosha County Department of Public Works and Development Services.

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING IN PRACTICE

Kenosha County Purchasing Specialist **Tricia Stuart** has a job many of us might envy - she gets to shop every day! Her passion is finding good deals for the county that are also good deals for the environment.

- When making purchasing decisions on the county level, Tricia tries to source anything that falls into the “green” or energy-efficient category — be it cleaning supplies or light bulbs.
- Tricia scours green purchasing groups to find the best and most affordable sustainable products for the county. One of her favorite websites is sftool.gov, a website that streamlines sustainable product procurement for vendors and buyers.
- For us non-professional purchasers, Tricia recommends the EPA Greener Living website for information on earth-friendly products and more: epa.gov/environmental-topics/greener-living.
- At home Tricia only uses LED lighting, and has replaced old appliances with new, energy-efficient versions. She makes her own glass cleaner and laundry detergent, trying to eliminate unnecessary chemicals. In her words, “baking soda is fabulous!” as a cleaning agent.



BE SUSTAINABLE IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

UW-Extension Horticulture Educator, Jeanne Hilinske-Christensen, shares her tips for getting the most out of your garden this year.

- **Take a soil test** – A soil test will tell you what nutrients your plants need and will recommend the amount of fertilizer and organic matter to add to your soil. Soil test kits are available at the UW-Extension office at the KCC.
- **Try intensive gardening** – Intensive gardening is getting the most out of limited garden space by planting crops in the space between the rows, using raised beds with compost-amended soils, reducing spacing between plants, and trellising plants that vine and climb.
- **Amend with compost** – Incorporating compost into the garden improves soil health. It slowly works into existing soil to provide slow release nutrients to plants. It moderates soil temperature, improves soil drainage and fertility, and assists with weed suppression.
- **Consider mulch in the garden** – Mulches can increase or decrease soil temperatures, reduce the rate of moisture loss from the soil, increase crop yields, repel certain types of insect pests, slow the development of certain types of diseases, and keep produce clean by preventing splashing of wet soil onto produce.
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- **Use succession planting** – Succession planting maximizes space and may increase a harvest. Replant after harvesting the first crop or plant at intervals to extend the season of harvest.
- **Maintain tools & equipment** – Keep tools clean, sharp, and in good condition for use in the garden. Fix leaky hoses to reduce water loss. Follow equipment maintenance schedules to be sure equipment runs efficiently. Garden tools may last for many seasons if they are properly maintained.



Sustainable Kenosha County Team

- Beverlee Baker
- Andy Buehler
- Matt Collins
- Donna Esposito
- Amy Greil
- Dayvin Hallmon
- Jeanne Hilinske-Christensen
- Jessica Kwopil
- Mark Melotik
- Leigh Presley
- Nancy Retana
- Tricia Stuart
- Mike Schrandt
- Ben Taggart

Are you interested in joining the team?

For more information, contact Leigh Presley at 262-857-1948 or leigh.presley@ces.uwex.e

Upcoming Events

- April 21** - [Celebrate Earth Day](#) at Gateway’s Kenosha Campus
- April 28** - [Uptown Brass Village Neighborhood Clean Up](#)
- May 5** - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, 8 AM - 1 p.m. at the KCC
- June 13** - [Kenosha County Prairie Walk](#)
- June 16** - [Kenosha County Dairy Air Bike Ride & Dairy Breakfast](#)

See the [Kenosha County Parks Events Calendar](#) for more sustainable summer fun!

Have a lawn or garden question? Contact our helpful Master Gardeners at 262-857-1942 or visit them at the Kenosha County Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon.

TALKING TRASH VIDEO

In an effort to provide a closer look at Kenosha County's new office waste disposal policy, Sustainable Kenosha County has released an informative video on the do’s and don’ts of trash disposal in the county. Check out the video on the Sustainable Kenosha County webpage.

Show us your commitment to responsible waste management by submitting a photo of you sharing the “Talking Trash” video at your next staff meeting. Submit a photo by Thursday, May 3rd to be entered into a drawing to win a breakfast spread for your office! Go to <https://bit.ly/2GW5PZC> to enter!

