The purpose of the ColumbiaCare Sustainability Committee is to help provide education, create awareness, and encourage activities that are both fun and promote sustainability in the following 4 quadrants:

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Pollution Prevention
- Responsible Energy Use
- Product & Service Selection and Use

Each quarter we will be focusing on one of the four quadrants and asking programs to consider ways to improve practices in that area. We will do this by providing some interesting information on the topic, sharing examples of activities that programs are already doing, and by asking programs to find creative, simple, and fun ways to incorporate these types of activities into daily work/life.

**YOUR FIRST CHALLENGE!**

From April 15 to June 15 think about ways to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle — and then send us stories and pictures on what you come up with to be entered into a drawing for a prize! Here are some of the very creative ways staff and clients are already practicing this concept:

- Check out this cool way a Cedar Bay client is reusing and repurposing objects that might otherwise end up in a landfill. Try making your own artwork from recycled goods you have at your program.
- With Earth Day coming up on April 22, there are many events all over the state to participate in. In the Portland area, Jennings Lodge will have a group that will be attending a litter clean-up at Water Tower Park (for more info, see issue #42 of the CCS Newsletter).
- Make biodegradable mini planters from toilet paper rolls
- Reduce the use of individual water bottles by using reusable containers
- Take old clothing to the Goodwill or other second-hand clothing stores, and look there first for your next purchase
- Hold a clothing swap
- Create a battery recycling can
- BE IN AWE of nature by going out and enjoying and learning more about it
- A few other ways to participate are: start a recycling group, plant a garden at your program, bring your own reusable shopping bags to the store when grocery shopping for your program.

* There are endless ideas for cute, fun, educational reduce, reuse (repurpose), recycle activities that can be done for little to no money!

**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.**

Our first initiative stems from the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle quadrant—and just in time for Earth Day (April 22). **REDUCE:** Cut back on the quantity of products used in order to consume less resources and produce less waste. **REUSE:** Instead of throwing out items you no longer think you need, repurpose them to save money and the planet! **RECYCLE:** Make sure that materials that can be used again for another purpose end up in the right place (not in oceans or landfills), particularly those that are not biodegradable.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We throw out over 50 tons of household waste every second, and our waste production is only increasing. By 2030 the amount of household waste will almost double to 1000 million tons annually. For more information, visit [www.theworldcounts.com/counters/waste_pollution_facts/household_waste_statistics](http://www.theworldcounts.com/counters/waste_pollution_facts/household_waste_statistics)

**A big thank you from the ColumbiaCare Sustainability Committee:**

Ann Eikenberry (Cedar Vale), Tammy Bray (Cedar Bay), Steve Richards (JSC), Joshua Boyd (Jennings Lodge), Stephanie Cronen (Columbia River Ranch), Jennifer Swofford (Admin Office) & Kayla Burk (Admin Office)
The Sustainability Committee’s first company-wide challenge has come to an end. We are excited to announce all of the following programs were participants in the Reduce, Reuse & Recycle challenge!

- **Fairview Firs**, Recycling
- **Centennial**, Facility Garden
- **New Roads**, Facility Garden
- **Johnson Creek**, Facility Garden
- **Columbia Rose**, Facility Garden
- **Driftwood Lodge**, Facility Garden & Worm Farm
- **Columbia River Ranch**, Recycling & Composting
- **Autumn Ridge**, Paper Towel Conservation
- **Clear Vue**, Facility Garden & Recycling/Reusing Art Projects
- **Cedar Bay**, Facility Garden & Recycling/Reusing Art Projects
- **Aster Place/Greenburg**, Facility Garden
- **McKinley Park**, Facility Garden
- **Alder Creek**, Facility Garden
- **Bell Cove**, Facility Garden
- **Salmon Run**, Facility Garden
- **Lincoln Park**, Facility Garden
- **Jennings Lodge**, Facility Garden

As promised, we have randomly selected a winner to receive a pizza party for clients and staff at their program.

**And the winner is... Autumn Ridge!**

A big thanks to everyone who participated! **Be on the lookout for our next challenge starting in July.**