Sustainable City Scavenger Hunt

Spice up your neighborhood walk by searching for sustainability! Nature conservation, environmental projects, earth-friendly practices, and energy efficiency are put into practice by many Raleigh residents, businesses and City Departments. See if you can spot sites in your area that demonstrate environmental stewardship.

Instructions: Look for the items below while out in your neighborhood. Mark the items you find with a sticker or check mark and challenge your friends and family to see who can find them all first!

I found it!

What to look for Solar panels



Solar panels gather energy from the sun and convert it into electricity to fuel homes and other buildings. There are no greenhouse gas emissions created from this renewable energy and using solar energy reduces the amount of fossil fuels used to run our homes.

Rain barrel



Rain barrels are a simple way to capture, store, and use rainwater as it flows from gutters and downspouts onto a property. Rainwater is good for plants and soils. Using rainwater in your garden helps conserve drinking water, and rain barrels help reduce stormwater pollution to local streams, lakes, and rivers.

Bike lanes



Bike lanes help make car and truck drivers aware of cyclists on the road, which protects cyclists and helps promote cycling as a form of transportation and a healthy form of recreation. This gets people out of their cars and reduces greenhouse gas emissions!

Electric cars



Electric cars are powered by electricity, not gasoline or diesel fuel. Since they are not burning fuel in an internal combustion engine, they don't emit pollutants into the air.

This reduces our greenhouse gas emissions and keeps particulate pollution out of the air.

Permeable pavers





Permeable pavers allow water to soak into spaces in a hard surface. This reduces the amount of rainwater that runs off from hard surfaces into our streams and rivers, which can take with it harmful chemicals, trash and other pollutants. Water that soaks into the ground through the spaces between these pavers is filtered by soils, reducing the amount of pollutants in our rivers.

Pollinator gardens, bee boxes, or other pollinator habitats





Pollinating species help support plant life and agriculture. Pollinators are responsible for up to 35% of the food on our plates! They can be supported by planting gardens with species designed to attract and feed them, or by installing habitat to protect them.

Team Downtown Raleigh





Raleigh has crews working in our downtown district year-round to keep our sidewalks and public areas clean. This crew sweeps, collects litter, and helps keep downtown beautiful and keeps litter and cigarette butts from reaching our streams and waterways! If you find them out working, be sure to wave hello!

Laundry drying outside



Drying laundry outside reduces the amount of energy it takes to run a dryer, it can help clothes last longer, and it saves money.

Vegetable and fruit gardens



Do you see people growing food in their yards, or on porches in containers? This is a great way to promote healthy eating and increase pollinator activity.

Green roofs



A green roof or living roof is a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and a growing medium. A green roof has many benefits: it provides a rainwater buffer, purifies the air, reduces the ambient temperature, regulates the indoor temperature, saves energy, and encourages biodiversity in the city.

freeFILL sites



freeFILL is a City of Raleigh program to promote the use of reusable water bottles in the City. Local sites and businesses in the program have a decal in their window to show that they are a participating in the program. **Recycling crews on their trucks**



Raleigh's recycling trucks collect up to 550 tons of recyclable material every WEEK! These crews keep this material out of our landfills and send it to the recycling center where it can be sorted and turned into different materials to be used again. If you see our recycling crews, be sure to say hi!

Scooters/bicycles/Citrix Cycles



There are lots of ways to get around Raleigh! Keep an eye out for people using different modes of transportation: Citrix Cycles, Gotcha scooters, their own bicycles, scooters, and even roller skates! How many people-powered transportation modes can you find?

Rain garden/ bioretention area



A rain garden is a garden of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression, which is generally formed on a natural slope. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak in rain water runoff that flows from roofs, driveways, patios or lawns.

Compost piles/ compost bins/ compost barrels





Are your neighbors composting? Composting breaks down yard waste and food waste into organic components, which can be used to enhance soils. Compost is rich in nutrients and helps to turn food waste into healthier soils for fresh foods, flowers, trees and plants!

Roundabout



Roundabouts are a roadway formation. They are typically used to slow traffic speeds and reduce accidents. They also keep traffic moving and reduce stops and starts from traffic lights, which reduces vehicle travel times, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and increases air quality.

Bus stops BONUS: Electric Buses





Riding the bus reduces the number of vehicles on the road and providea safe and fast transportation options to people all across the city and the region.

BONUS: GoTriangle is starting to put electric buses on its routes! See if you can spot one!

Recycling carts



Residents of Raleigh have blue recycling carts to collect recyclable paper, cardboard, aluminum, glass and plastic (bottles, tubs and jugs). This action by our residents keeps this material out of the landfill!

Public Art about Sustainability



Raleigh is a city of murals and artwork! There are a number of pieces of public art in the city dedicated to sustainability, nature, and conservation. Keep your eyes peeled, these can show up anywhere: sidewalks, walls, sculptures, storm drains, you name it!



How many can you find?

LED Streetlights



The City's LED Streetlight Pilot Project replaced traditional street lighting with high-efficiency LED lights. After a successful pilot, Raleigh began replacing 30,000 conventional lights in fall 2015. It is estimated that LED streetlights operating up to 12 hours a day should last a minimum of 15 to 20 years. These lights use far less energy than traditional lights. They can be recognized by their brighter white light.