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## EnAct to Build a Community

by Zaher Karp

Reduce, reuse, recycle. This slogan, originally issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, still applies to today's eco-conscious citizens hoping to lessen their environmental impact. EnAct members who learn about the three Rs go beyond environmental awareness and help build community in the Madison area.

Creating or participating in an EnAct team is just as much a social and communicative event as it is environmentally-aware. There is an EnAct Participant Guide, tailored for Dane County residents. Sonya Newenhouse, President of Madison Environmental Group explains, "it's specific for Wisconsin. It's not a generic how-to, but rather geared to our communities here."



*EnAct raises environmental awareness while building community in the Madison area.*

Don't think that EnAct Teams are just for neighborhoods or other personal communities. Some EnAct members have reached to their professional relations to make a positive ecological impact. Madison MAGNET has recently announced a GreenWorks Challenge, requiring MAGNET teams to form an EnAct team in their workplace.

One area resident following the EnAct curriculum — at home and in the workplace — is Laura Eory, a Service & Capacity Planning Analyst at Kraft Foods. The EnAct program has helped Eory focus on household repairs to minimize expenses, begin a compost pile — and connect with her coworkers. "The best part about being in a group at Kraft Foods is that I am getting to know my colleagues better and we provide support to each other to make sure we are held accountable within a specific time frame to accomplish our goals."

Erin Falligant and her team of coworkers at American Girl pushed toward their goal of creating a greener workplace through key corporate-wide changes. A member of her team encouraged their in-house café to use earth-friendly cups and bowls and serve locally-grown food. "I've been a part of many environmental discussion groups over the last few years and the EnAct program is the one that stays with me. It's my green bible of sorts," Falligant explains. "My relationships with my coworkers who participated in the program have deepened, and we hope to encourage other employees to participate in the program too."