

Reusable Bag Sharing Program Pilot

Objective: To establish and support a pilot reusable bag sharing program that simplifies the process for residents to donate and access reusable bags. We aim to create a community-driven program that promotes sustainable and equitable practices among residents by making free reusable bags more accessible to all residents.

1. Program Design and Implementation:

- a. Establish Collection/Distribution Points: Identify convenient collection/distribution points where residents can donate their surplus reusable bags. This could include community centers, libraries, small grocery stores, or other easily accessible locations. Create a system that can be maintained with minimal oversight by staff.
- b. Donation Guidelines: Develop clear guidelines for accepting reusable bag donations to ensure that donated bags are suitable for reuse. Ask donors to ensure cleanliness of donated bags and encourage recipients to keep the bags clean and in good condition.
- c. Sorting and Distribution: Create a system and schedule for staff or volunteers to periodically organize donated bags to ensure bags are in good condition and to redistribute bags from collection/distribution points with a surplus to locations with a greater need.
- d. New Bag Availability: Arrange for a limited supply of new reusable bags to be available for distribution alongside donated bags. This ensures a consistent supply and availability of reusable bags for residents.

2. Public Awareness and Promotion:

- a. Outreach and Education: Launch an awareness campaign to inform residents about the reusable bag sharing program. Utilize multiple communication channels, such as community newsletters, social media, traditional media, and flyers at key locations.
- b. Partnerships: Collaborate with local businesses, community organizations, schools, and government agencies to promote the program and encourage participation. Seek opportunities to feature the program in community events and educational sessions.
- c. Publicize Exchange Points: Clearly publicize the designated collection/distribution points for reusable bags. Place signage at these locations to attract attention and encourage residents to contribute their extra reusable bags.
- d. Social Media Engagement: Leverage social media platforms to engage residents, share success stories, and spread the message about the bag sharing program. Encourage users to share their experiences to create a sense of community participation.

3. Program Accessibility and Logistics:

- a. User-Friendly Distribution System: Design a user-friendly process for residents to access donated and new reusable bags. Consider implementing a self-service system where individuals can easily browse and select bags at the designated distribution points.
- b. Tracking and Inventory Management: Establish a system for tracking the quantity and condition of donated and new reusable bags. Regularly monitor the inventory to ensure an adequate supply of bags for residents.
- c. Collection/Distribution Point Management: Provide clear instructions to staff or volunteers responsible for managing the collection/distribution points. Train them on accepting donations, organizing bags, and ensuring residents can access the bags.

- d. Regular Evaluation: Conduct periodic evaluations to assess the demand, usage, and effectiveness of the bag sharing program. Gather feedback from both donors and recipients to make improvements and address any challenges.

4. Expansion and Sustainability:

- a. Program Expansion: Based on the success and demand of the pilot program, explore opportunities to expand the initiative to additional partner locations within the community.
- b. Long-Term Sustainability: Seek sustainable funding sources, such as grants or sponsorships, to ensure the program's continued operation.
- c. Community Engagement: Foster a sense of community ownership and participation by organizing community initiatives focused on reusable bag usage, waste reduction, and environmental sustainability.