

AQUINAS COLLEGE

HOW TO GO ZERO WASTE WITH ZERO CASH A COMMUTER'S GUIDE



Living off-campus with a tight budget? Use these Zero Waste tips to save money and reduce your footprint!

STEP 1 → REFUSE

STEP 2 → REDUCE

STEP 3 → REUSE

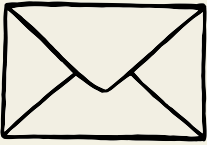
STEP 4 → RECYCLE

STEP 5 → ROT

REFUSE

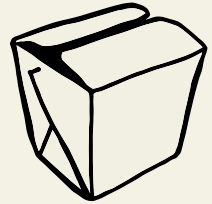
(what you don't need)

STEP 1



JUNK MAIL

Unsubscribe from junk mailing lists using this website: directmail.com/mail_preference/



TO-GO CONTAINERS

Bring your own reusable food storage with you to restaurants



CHEAP FREEBIES

We're looking at you, career fairs



SINGLE-USE MATERIALS

Say no to plastic straws, utensils, bags, etc.



SINGLE-USE SHOPPING BAGS

Keep reusable bags in your trunk for unplanned trips

STEP 2



REDUCE

(what you do need)



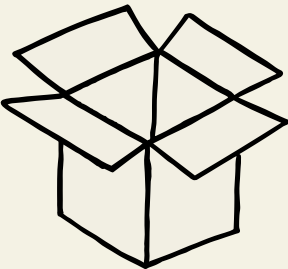
CAR RIDES

Try out the Rapid bus (only 25¢ with an AQ ID!) or consider taking a bike if your trip is short



PAPER USE

Always print double-sided and buy online textbooks when available



PACKAGING

Buy in bulk and bring your own reusable containers on shopping trips



HOME SIZE

Smaller houses need less power to stay warm and well-lit, and reduce the urge to purchase unnecessary things

REUSE

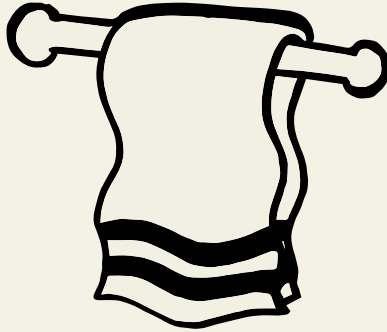
(what you use)

STEP 3



BATTERIES

Save yourself some money by purchasing rechargeable batteries



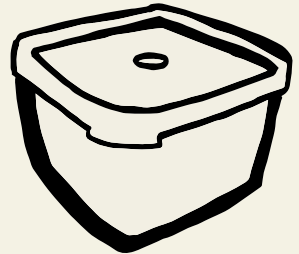
RAGS AND TOWELS

Keep cloth rags and towels around to avoid depending on paper towels



DRINK STORAGE

Bring a mug with you to your favorite coffee shop; they might give you a discount



FOOD STORAGE

Store your lunch and snacks in reusable bags and containers

STEP 4



RECYCLE

(your waste)



SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING

If you are a Grand Rapids resident, recycling is **FREE!** Visit our Zero Waste page on the Aquinas website for simple tips on what to recycle.

If you don't have access to curbside recycling, you can collect and bring your recyclables to one of Kent County's **three FREE drop-off stations**. Visit their website at recyclekent.org for the station locations as well as information about how to recycle unusual items.

ROT

(your waste)

STEP 5



COMPOSTING

Grand Rapids is a “Pay as You Throw” community, therefore your **Zero Waste habits will save you cash on curbside trash pick-up.**

Use the money you save from reducing your trash output to invest in a commercial composting program like Organicycle! It costs about the same as a trash service.

For kitchen scraps and smaller items, try using a worm box or personal composter in your home or yard to turn kitchen waste into free soil for your house plants/garden!

AQUINAS COLLEGE

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