

SET UP A COMMUNITY FRIDGE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Fridges are a way for the community to share care and support for each other!

All the food at the fridges are free and available for everyone

Solidarity not charity! Bring food and take food!

Lots of fresh local organic produce from farms nearby!



LOCATION:

- Somewhere with easy street access
- Flat ground (can lay down a pallet to create an even surface)
- Sheltered from the sun if possible
- Access to an outlet
- Preferably private property with permission from the owner, this makes it less likely that the city will come and try to get the fridge removed
- Talk to your neighbors as the fridge will likely bring more foot traffic to given location

SET UP:

- Acquire a fridge! Checking craigslist/facebook marketplace as well as putting the word out on social media that you are looking for a working fridge is usually effective way to get a fridge
- Clean! Oftentimes the free fridges need a bit of cleaning before use
- Paint and decorate the fridge! Not a necessary step but a fun one to engage the community in and make the fridge more eye catching
- Plug the fridge in (after letting it sit for 24 hours after being moved), it will most likely need a long outdoor extension cord!
- Setting up a dry storage space not just on the ground is great so that people can bring a variety of foods
- Having a trash can and recycling out at the location allows for people using the space to clean up after themselves

NOW THAT THE FRIDGE IS UP AND WORKING:



- Donations! stocking the fridge is done by the community, and people who use the space often bring what they have and can.
- Going to local farmers markets near the end of market is a good place to get fresh produce donations
- Cleaning: fridge should be wiped down and sanitized every day or more as needed, having a cleaning spray and towels available for people to clean after use is helpful, fridge hosts should also clean every few days or as needed.
- Having sign in sheets where people can sign in their donations is helpful in keeping track of where all the food is coming from and also is good to have in case city inspectors check out the space
- Spread the word! Reach out on social media to let people know. Flyering the neighborhood will also be a good way to get neighbors and regular visitors who may not be in your social media circles.

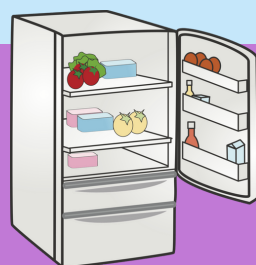
DONATION GUIDELINES:

- Please do not leave:
 - raw meat, opened food containers, expired foods, or large donations not put away
- Please:
 - Label and date all perishable foods
 - Put away your donation where it should go, refrigerate perishables and put dry goods in pantry spot!
 - If a fridge is full please do not leave the donation. Try another community fridge, or consider bringing your donation to Food Not Bombs!
 - Filling the fridge with all one food is not always helpful, consider spreading out what you donate!



HOW TO TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS:

- Make a flyer! Most neighbors are likely to be more okay with the fridge + increased traffic if you reach out to them!
- Make yourself available to answer any questions that they have. If you are willing to put the time into that relationship, they are likely to feel heard and less likely to start serious problems.
- Encourage them to reach out to you with any concerns rather than calling the police or bringing inspectors to the space



COVID PRECAUTIONS:

- Keep masks and hand sanitizer on hand at the location.
- If people are coming to the fridge without masks, let them browse and keep your distance. Covid is spread through air and unlikely to get people sick through food - having the fridge outside eliminates the risk substantially
- Put up signs! Make it clear the expectations that ideally people are coming with masks on and that anyone who feels sick AT ALL should stay home.
- Try to limit one person or germ pod using the fridge at a time so that people can properly socially distance

**SOLIDARITY NOT CHARITY! THE
COMMUNITY TAKES CARE OF
EACH OTHER**