

Neighbour-to-Neighbour (N2N)

Connectors' Toolkit

Welcome!

Are you interested in growing neighbour-to-neighbour connections? If so, that's exciting – we hope these resources can help!

You can use these resources on your own or use them as “conversation guides” to help you assess, plan, and take action together.



1. My goals in connecting with neighbours

What are your main reasons for wanting to connect with neighbours?

Check one or more from the list below or add your own.

I would like to help...

 ☐ Strengthen neighbour-to-neighbour social connections and relationships.	 ☐ Increase individual and collective emergency preparedness and resilience.
 ☐ Increase neighbours' ability to live and age well at home.	 ☐ Support neighbours to take action and do things together.
 ☐ Build a culture of helping and interdependence among neighbours.	 ☐ Reach out to others who may be more disconnected or isolated.
Accomplish other goals, such as:	

2. What's already happening where I live?

Thinking beyond your own personal experiences, consider your neighbour-community. What's already happening in your building, on your street, or in your neighbourhood that can help foster more connections and community?

Assets or strengths that my neighbour-community already has that we can build on include:

ASSETS/STRENGTHS	NOTES
☐ Neighbourly attitudes and an openness to communicating or sharing	
☐ Existing social connections or relationships between neighbours	
☐ Group communications that neighbours are already using (e.g. newsletter, email list)	
☐ Examples of neighbours helping each other	
☐ Events or activities where some neighbours take leadership	
☐ Neighbours who have shown interest or energy for group activities	
☐ Physical features or spaces that support connecting (e.g. bulletin board, seating area)	
☐ Good relationship with a landlord or building manager	
☐ Existing programs or initiatives that foster connection	
Others:	

3. Ask your neighbours!

What do your neighbours think—what are their interests and motivations? What might they like to participate in? Why not ask them! This can be a great way to do a “temperature check” and help you identify other people who are interested in building community.

Find a buddy (or 2 or 3!)

Sometimes it's easiest to connect first with the neighbours you already know, and ask them to help connect with others. Simply finding a “buddy” to take the next steps with can give you an extra boost of confidence and energy. If you don't have a buddy yet, don't worry - you'll likely find one once you start reaching out to neighbours.



You might ask neighbours to contact you or invite them to a simple gathering!

Goals for reaching out to neighbours:



Introduce yourself as someone who is interested in connecting and gathering with neighbours.



Find out what your neighbours might be interested in doing together (e.g., preparing, connecting, sharing resources).



Get people thinking and talking about the potential of neighbours-to-neighbour action.

4. Connect with your neighbours!

Here are some ideas to help connect with neighbours:

Tip: Build on what's already happening in your neighbour-community!

In-person

TIP: Hang a Dot-Poster behind you to visually show how people are responding.

COFFEE SALON Invite neighbours to have a coffee or tea to share ideas.



LOBBY INTERCEPT

Sit in the lobby with a buddy and ask questions of neighbours passing by.



'PARTY WITH A PURPOSE'

(For example) Invite neighbours to a potluck where they can chat casually over a shared meal and discuss ideas to build community.

Indirectly

DOT-POSTER SURVEY

Hang a poster with prompting questions and ask neighbours to indicate their answers with sticky dots or notes.

POSTER

Hang a poster in the lobby, elevator or on your street, and ask neighbours to email or call you for more information and discussion.

POSTCARDS / HANDOUTS

Drop postcards in neighbours' mailboxes or leave them on a table in the lobby with your contact information.

SUGGESTION BOX

Use an empty box (e.g. cereal) in a lobby or hallway for a "Neighbour-to-Neighbour Suggestion Box", where neighbours can place their contact information or ideas for activities.

5. Neighbour-to-Neighbour Ideas

**Are you ready to try something in your building or on your street?
What “level of neighbouring” are you and your neighbours at, and
what would you like to strengthen?**

*Increasing
connections and trust
among neighbours*



**Casual
conversation**

Neighbours know each other's names and engage in casual conversation or communicate in other ways.



**Share items &
neighbourly
support**

Neighbours occasionally offer each other favours or share supplies.



**Organized
activities or
gatherings**

Neighbours gather to discuss issues or initiatives that are important to their community.



**Working
Together**

Neighbours work together to plan and accomplish something that serves a shared goal.

5. Neighbour-to-Neighbour Ideas

In the following pages are some activity ideas organized according to the 'level of neighbouring' the activity supports. For example, if you are wishing to encourage neighbours to informally get to know each other, jump to the "Casual Conversation" page.

Start simple! You can always build on things later.



Casual conversation



SAY HELLO!

Find opportunities to chat with neighbours by asking welcoming questions.

Notes:



NEIGHBOUR BINGO

Hang a "Neighbour Bingo" poster with prompts inviting neighbours to do simple actions to get to know one another and stickers to mark the square once the action is completed.

Notes:



LOBBY PUZZLE

Set up a puzzle table in the lobby or common area.

Notes:



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Hang a bulletin board in the lobby or common area and post prompting questions such as: *How could you help others in an emergency?*

Notes:

5. Neighbour-to-Neighbour Ideas



Share items & neighbourly support

Build on existing 'neighbourliness' and start practicing or experimenting with more formalized ways of sharing resources or offering support. You might try this as an individual or with a group of neighbours you already know.



SHARE WEATHER ALERTS

With a few neighbours, sign up for weather alerts (e.g. WeatherCan app). Agree to let your neighbours know when extreme weather is coming and share information to help them stay safe.

Notes:



SHARE SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

On a bulletin board (or online tool), invite neighbours to identify their skills, knowledge, or interests to see what you might be useful to share with each other.

Notes:



OFFER FAVOURS OR SMALL GIFTS

Offer to do favours for neighbours such as plant sitting or collecting mail while they are away. Deliver cookies or small gifts such as seeds, garden plants, etc. Or offer daily task support for those who might need some extra help such as pet-walking, grocery shopping, etc.

Notes:



SHARE GOODS & EQUIPMENT

Start a "Share Box" in a common area with a list posted above it where people can write down unwanted or under-used items that they are willing to share with neighbours. Offer to share items with neighbours that they might need (e.g. kitchen or garden equipment, tools).

Notes:

5. Neighbour-to-Neighbour Ideas



Organized activities or gatherings

A great way to spike interest and energy in building neighbourly connections and resilience is to simply get neighbours in a room or in the same place together! Invite your neighbours to a fun gathering (usually including food) that includes a conversation about what you might want to do together.



HOST AN EVENT

Invite neighbours to a movie night, or work with other neighbours to host a potluck.

Notes:



RESILIENCE DISCUSSION CIRCLE

Bring neighbours together to discuss their experiences and how they think about preparedness and resilience to help reveal the many strengths and gifts each person has to contribute.

Notes: (Separate discussion guide is available!)



PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

Invite neighbours to a social gathering and ask them to suggest ideas they might have for building community connection and preparedness and indicate what ideas they are interested in. Invite neighbours to leave their contact information so you can follow up after the party!

Notes:



COFFEE SALON

Host a Saturday morning coffee meet up in your home or a common area. Invite neighbours to bring their own beverages and join for conversation.

Notes:

5. Neighbour-to-Neighbour Ideas



Working together

If some of your neighbours are already familiar with working together, try building a more formal system of support to help ensure everyone in your building or on your street is included.



HEAT PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Bring neighbours together to discuss what you can do to stay cool and how you will help keep each other safe during extreme heat

Notes: (Separate Heat Plan guide is available!)



FLOOR CONNECTOR SYSTEM

Floor Connectors encourage neighbours who live on the same floor to get to know each other and prepare together for emergencies. Identify Connectors on each floor to help ensure all neighbours are connected and stay safe.

Notes: (Separate Floor Connector guide and tools are available!)



NEIGHBOUR-TO-NEIGHBOUR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Set up a communication system to help neighbours strengthen their social connections, foster community, and support each other more effectively during an emergency.

Notes: (Separate N2N Communication guide and tools are available!)



PLAN A PROJECT TOGETHER

Recruit a group of neighbours to work with you on a project like planting fruit trees or organizing a summer garage sale, or help a neighbour organize a project around their passion.

Notes: