Steps to creating a successful civic engagement plan.

Step one: Brainstorm local issues in your community. Chat with family, friends, colleagues, and fellow Civic Academy members to get ideas. Look at local news and neighborhood apps to see recurring themes.

Step two: Clearly define the main issue you'd like to address. Which issue resonates most with you? Which issue could your civic engagement plan realistically improve? How can you logistically make a difference?

Step three: Research and investigate the issues. Explore online data, identify and/or interview organizations or individuals working on similar issues. Chat with fellow Civic Academy members for feedback. Begin laying out your plan and continue to refine as you go.

Step four: Complete your **individual action plan worksheet**. This worksheet gives DRCOG staff an overview of your civic engagement plan and helps organize your plan into a practical and actionable outline. Send your worksheet and any slides to ashelbourn@drcog.org by **November 8**.

Step five: Present your plan at the final Civic Academy session on **November 10**. You have three minutes or less, five slides or less to share your plan with the group. Time limits will be strictly enforced to allow time for all to present. Choose your medium - you can use PowerPoint, printouts, get creative, or just speak to the group.

Step six: Take action. We're here to help! Reach out to us for ideas, connections, whatever you need, and we'll do our best to help you transition your plan into reality.

Step seven: Let us know your progress in the next six months or year. Stay in touch with us and each other. We can all be valuable resources for one another. Use the discussion area of the portal, email ashelbourn@drcog.org, share on social media and use the tags:

#CivicChat
#DRCOG
#CivicAcademy