

Sharing Products, Sharing Futures

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In this project we examined the effect of sharing on consumption and suggest how we might better utilize sharing as a means of increasing sustainability. This is becoming an increasingly prevalent practice by businesses and community members. Sharing is a sustainable practice because it promotes the minimization of products being purchased individually reduces the production of waste, and cuts down on transportation emissions.

Promoting product and service sharing would boost local economies by retaining profits and encourage a shift from a consumption-based economy to one focused on sharing. We live in a time where consumers are being consumed by the amount of products they amass and it seems the novelty of product- and service-sharing will offer some relief.



The University Heights Tool Library not only lends out tools to the surrounding community, but also connects with them by using their tools to help create gardens and repurpose vacant lots into parks.

Photo Credit: Jayralin Herrera,
University Heights



The BikeShare program in Buffalo makes bicycles available to residents of the city as well as neighboring University at Buffalo students. On campus, for a discounted rate, sharing this resource helps reduce the need for individuals to have their own personal bikes and instead allows them to use the shared bikes when needed.

Photo Credit: Jayralin Herrera,
UB North Campus



Buffalo CarShare provides vehicles to those who don't want to own a car so that they can still use them when needed – this creates a stronger reliance on the public transportation system which will ultimately demand efficiency. They also let local businesses use the cars for free!

Photo Credit: <http://bit.ly/liPmYkX>,
Buffalo, NY



The CSA program organized by MAP provides affordable access to healthier food options to lower income families on the West Side of Buffalo. People are able to support a local farm while benefitting from the produce.

Photo Credit: <http://bit.ly/1kpWBVP>,
West Side, Buffalo