

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## Vedha's Story

I've been volunteering with BurlingtonGreen for four years now. Since the beginning of my connection with BG, I've been openly welcomed into the close-knit community of volunteers and staff that help initiate and conduct so many events and clean-ups.

One of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering with BG has been the connections I've made with others who share a similar passion for protecting the environment. I've met like-minded individuals who inspire me daily! Together, we work on various community projects, from organizing clean-up events to promoting eco-friendly practices in the neighbourhood. It's amazing how these friendships have blossomed, all while contributing to a cause I care deeply about.

During my years volunteering with BG, I've been encouraged to take more proactive steps in my sustainability journey. I've been inspired to plant flowers that support bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. I've also come to appreciate the power of communal gardens, where neighbours come together to grow food, share knowledge, and reduce food waste. These experiences have empowered me to start my small garden at home, growing everything from herbs to vegetables, which has reduced my reliance on store-bought produce and deepened my connection to the natural world.

I've been part of BG's electronic waste drop-offs for four years, and that's helped me become more mindful about recycling my e-waste properly. I now properly dispose of old electronics through designated recycling programs, ensuring they don't end up in landfills and contribute to pollution. I bring my own e-waste to BG's drop-off events and I also spread the word to friends and family in the area, encouraging them to take the efficient yet impactful steps to recycle their unwanted technology correctly! These easy-to-adopt efforts have given me a great sense of accomplishment that makes me proud and eager to spread my knowledge to others.

I genuinely look forward to volunteering with BurlingtonGreen. I love the hands-on experience of working with others to make a tangible difference in the community, as well as the team bonding and learning that occurs as we plan and conduct activities. Whether it's planting trees, advocating for sustainable practices, or educating others about the importance of going green, I feel a deep sense of purpose in these activities.

