

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE



ZERO WASTE News

A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery
Single-Family Residence Customers | Winter 2020



STEPS TO A ZERO WASTE LIFESTYLE

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STEPS TO A ZERO WASTE LIFESTYLE

Make a resolution toward achieving a zero waste lifestyle for a year with less waste. A better planet doesn't start with a few people doing zero waste perfectly; it starts with millions of people doing zero waste imperfectly. Start small and be part of the movement!

Awareness: Be aware of the global and local trash issues. Stay informed through reading our County of Santa Cruz Public Works Blog.

www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/RecyclingTrash.aspx

Phase out: Get rid of things that don't serve a purpose in your life. Work on slowly phasing out wasteful products you already own. Don't toss perfectly good items, make sure that you use them up before switching to less wasteful alternatives.

Simple swaps: Start with these four items: Bring your reusable bags, reusable water bottle, reusable coffee/tea mug, and say no to straws.

Patience: Going zero waste doesn't happen in a week. It takes time to find creative solutions to wasteful problems. Start in the kitchen and bathroom.

Better Solutions: Look at your own waste/trash and examine what you are still throwing away. Try to find solutions to the problems or ask for help.

Education and Community: Going zero waste is a process. Always keep growing and learning by sharing what you've learned with others.

Zero Waste Food Tips

According to the U.S. EPA, Americans throw away an estimated 25% of the food they bring home. 40% of all food produced in the U.S. is wasted. Wasteful food habits are expensive and harmful to the environment. Here are ways to reduce food waste:

- Check your refrigerator and pantry to know what you have - use up what you have before buying more.
- Make a grocery list before going shopping, and stick to it.
- Properly store fruits, herbs and vegetables to extend shelf life.
- Measure portion sizes to avoid cooking too much.
- Eat older food and leftovers first - make sure to date things and rotate.
- Share food with friends, family and neighbors or donate to organizations that feed people.
- Trust your senses (smell, sight and taste) to determine if food is still good, even if a date on the package suggests otherwise.
- Find creative ways to use food scraps, like making croutons from bread crusts, or creating a pesto from carrot greens.



Zero Waste Shopping Tips

Avoid bringing waste into your home with these zero waste shopping tips:

- Buy in bulk. Take large reusable containers (have store to pre-weigh your container before filling it to get tare weight).
- Use a cloth bag to buy bread and dry bulk items.
- Bring your large canvas totes/reusable shopping bags.
- Buy items with no or minimal packaging.
- Avoid little things that usually end up in the trash- receipts, twist ties



Zero Waste Money Saver: Replace Single-Use

A family of four, who each use two single-use water bottles per day (based on \$0.50 per 16 oz bottle) can save \$1,456.00/ year by using reusable water bottles; and for a specialty drink (\$1.50 per 16 oz bottle) will save \$4,380.00 by refilling your own bottle, thermos or cup.



Zero Waste Super Bowl

Super Bowl Sunday is one of the biggest party days of the year. For many people, that means a house full of friends and family enjoying pizza, chips, beer and team decorations. When planning your gathering, keep the environment in mind! It is possible to go green and plan a zero waste celebration. Here are some ideas:

- Send electronic invitations to your Super Bowl Celebration.
- Let your guests know ahead of time of your zero waste plans. Invite everyone to bring their own cup and a container for leftovers.
- Use washable plates, cutlery, beverage cups/glasses and napkins.
- DIY décor with recycled materials such as fabric for napkins and homemade banners.
- Carefully plan the menu to reduce waste. Make your own pizza and offer finger foods so you can ditch the plates and packaging.
- Use a party planning calculator to determine how much food and drink you'll need to avoid over-buying and creating food waste.
- Buy kegs or bigger bottles of beverages to reduce your waste from containers.
- Label your disposal area with trash, recycling and compost signs so everyone can participate in separating waste properly.

Relax and have fun knowing you're making a difference.



HOLIDAYS ARE OVER

...time to put away the new items!

What do you do with old items you have replaced with new? Keep them out of the landfill by donating or recycling them!



Goodwill, Salvation Army, and other local thrift shops and donation centers are great places to donate unwanted items that are still good. Items they typically take are: clothing, shoes, accessories, housewares, jewelry, books, wheelchairs, sports equipment, luggage & furniture (call to check on specific items). Working electronics, computers, and appliances may also be accepted. www.cgoodwill.org

www.santacruz.salvationarmy.org

Grey Bears will also accept the above donations, and in addition (working or not) cell phones, TVs, monitors, VCR/DVD/CD players and other items that might be repaired by their team. Grey Bears supports food service for seniors and local charities by delivering 3,800 weekly healthy food brown bags. You can also make monetary donations, donations of recycling materials and vehicles. Volunteers are always welcome!

www.greybears.org

Habitat for Humanity ReStore accepts most of the items noted above, plus home building supplies and fixtures. Call (831) 824-4704 to check for pick-up or drop off times and days available.

www.habitatmontereybay.com/restore

Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center accepts volunteer time, monetary donations, vehicles and clothing for women and children. www.wafwc.org

Project Purr's Rescued Treasures takes donations for resale to benefit feral cat advocacy.

www.projectpurr.org

FabMo is located at 970 Terra Bella Ave, Suite 5 in Mountain View. They divert over 70 tons of discontinued designer samples such as fabric, wallpaper tile, unused fabrics from the home, and carpet before they end up in the landfill. They sort the materials and ask for donations from anyone who wants to use their stock for home projects! Check out their calendar for creative meet ups mostly in Mountain View, satellite events are in Santa Cruz and elsewhere. www.fabmo.org

Local consignment stores are also great ways to keep your goods out of the landfill by selling your items for you!

Give away items for free at www.freecycle.org in the Santa Cruz or Watsonville postings; post something you would like to up-cycle to a new owner!

Or call GreenWaste to schedule a bulky item or extra garbage pickup at (831) 426-2711.

Whichever way you choose to rid yourself of old items, please don't illegally dump!



CLOTHING AND TEXTILE RECYCLING ALTERNATIVES



Repurpose your torn, stained, or worn clothing at home by making dust cloths or clean up rags for spills and other uses (instead of paper). Many rags can be washed and reused. You can even make reusable vegetable and shopping bags out of unwanted lightweight garments.

Classes are available through Cabrillo College to learn to make wall art and other fabric designs by transforming your favorite garment. Sewing classes through Hart's Fabric or Santa Cruz Vac and Sew can help you combine garments or textiles to make something new. The Fabrica offers a community workspace to learn and share knowledge about textile arts.

www.hartsfabric.com/events

www.santacruzvacnsew.com/calendar.htm

www.thefabrica.org

Donations of old unwanted blankets (without stuffing), sheets, washcloths, and towels are accepted at Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter or SPCA. They also accept small training dog treats, kongs and other food prizes and toys, your volunteer time, and so much more. Check out:

www.scanimalshelter.org/wish-lists, www.spcasc.org

Up-cycle your unwanted torn and shredded jeans at www.bluejeansgogreen.org. Mail your jeans free of charge courtesy of "Zappos for good," who makes sure denim pants and jackets stay out of the landfill. They transform jeans into cotton fiber insulation that is used around the country. Ready, set, go on line and find out how today!



CRV REDEMPTION AT RETAILERS

Why aren't they accepting my CRV for return? What can I do about it?

Recently the state's most prolific CRV can and bottle redemption centers closed more than 700 locations, leaving many people wondering where to redeem their CRV containers. To find businesses in your area that are accepting CRV for reimbursement, go to:

www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/InStoreRedemption

If the retailer from the CalRecycle website list does not accept CRV when you come in, please email report to CalRecycle at:

complaints@calrecycle.ca.gov

Many retailers that sell CRV packaged beverages are now responsible for redeeming CRV or paying a daily fee to CalRecycle. Retailer/Dealer responsibilities area explained at:

www.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/Retailers

Reminder: You can always place the cans and bottles in your GreenWaste blue cart/bin for curbside pick-up. You won't get the California Refund Value (CRV) but they will be recycled.



SAVE THE DATE!

Celebrate Earth Day's 50th anniversary at Earth Day Santa Cruz

on Saturday, April 18, 2020
in San Lorenzo Park!

County of Santa Cruz Public Works

701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2160

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RECYCLING RESOURCES



Recycle Information Line 831-454-2333

- What and where to recycle (recorded messages)

Curbside Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection 800-665-2209

(operated by GreenWaste Recovery)
www.greenwaste.com/santa-cruz-county

- Begin new service
- Report missed recycling or trash service
- Request delivery or removal of carts
- Obtain oil recycling jugs



County Public Works Dept...... 831-454-2160

www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org

- Apartments and business recycling inquiries
- Complaints, compliments or suggestions
- Report roadside trash 831-477-3999

Household Hazardous Waste..... 831-454-2606

(recorded messages)

- Schedule for free disposal
- Non-hazardous alternatives

Composting Resources

www.compostsantacruzcounty.org

Questions?

Call the County Outreach Team..... 831-454-2160

Buena Vista Landfill & Recycling Center 831-454-5153

- Recorded information 831-454-2430

1231 Buena Vista Drive, Watsonville 95076

Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30

HHW Facility - Open Wed, Fri & Sat 7:30-3:30

Ben Lomond Transfer Station & Recycling Center..... 831-336-3951

- Recorded information 831-454-2430

9835 Newell Creek Road, Ben Lomond 95005

Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30

HHW Facility - Open Thursdays 7:30-3:30

California Grey Bears Recycling Centers 831-479-1055 ext. 235

Mid County, 2710 Chanticleer Avenue, Santa Cruz 95065

..... Open 7:30-3:45 daily

Buena Vista Landfill - Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30

Ben Lomond Transfer Station - Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30

City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility & Recycling Center..... 831-420-6270

- Open to unincorporated county residents in Davenport and Bonny Doon only

605 Dimeo Lane, Santa Cruz 95060

Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30

HHW Facility - Open Saturdays 7:30-3:30



Para información en español sobre el reciclaje en las áreas no incorporadas del condado de Santa Cruz, favor de llamar al (800) 665-2209.