



ZERO WASTE

News

A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery
Commercial Customers | Winter 2024

RECYCLE RIGHT

*Purchasing for
Your Business*

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RECYCLE RIGHT

Choose Wisely When Purchasing for Your Business

Recycling right starts with making the right choices when purchasing items for your business because much of what we throw out is packaging. Choose items packaged in environmentally friendly packaging, and for items you sell, choose packaging that can be reused or recycled locally.

If we use the recycling hierarchy of “Refuse, Repair, Reduce, Reuse, and (then) Recycle” to make purchasing and packaging decisions for our businesses, we will have a more sustainable local economy. If you have a supplier you like who ships products in packaging that you can’t recycle locally, let them know about the problem. Suggest they investigate other packing materials that are better for the environment.

When buying items with packaging or selling items in packaging, choose materials that are easiest to recycle locally. Even though GreenWaste customers can recycle plastics numbered #1 through #7 and “bagged” clean film plastic, the easiest materials to recycle locally are #1 and #2 plastics, glass, uncoated cardboard, paperboard, iron, tin, aluminum, and other non-ferrous metals. All local programs also accept the wood from unpainted wood pallets in their green organics bins. Packaging to avoid: Styrofoam, individually wrapped single-use items, packaging that’s hard to recycle and can’t be reused, and mixed materials not accepted by your local recycler.



KEEP BATTERIES OUT OF THE LANDFILL

It is important to dispose of ALL batteries properly! Batteries do NOT go in the trash or recycling.

Mismanaged batteries can leak toxic materials into the soil and groundwater, which can then reach our water supply. Batteries present a fire risk when over-charged, short-circuited, submerged in water, and when they are damaged. Please tape 9 volt terminals.

For proper disposal, bring batteries to a Santa Cruz County Household Hazardous Waste facility, accepting all household batteries (alkaline, button batteries, nickel-cadmium):

- **Buena Vista Landfill:** Open Fri. and Sat. 7:30 AM-3:30 PM, Wed. 7:30 AM-2:30 PM.
- **Ben Lomond Transfer Station:** Thurs. 7:30 AM-3:30 PM
- **City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility:** Sat. 7:30 AM-3:30 PM



COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE COLLECTION

Keep up the good work by placing all food and yard waste in your green cart. Diverting food and yard waste from the landfill saves the planet by reducing the production of methane gas. Business owners are responsible for training staff members in proper waste management practices.

- Place baking soda at the bottom of the organic container once it is emptied to help absorb grease; spray bug spray or citronella to keep bugs away
- Provide plant trimmings or mulch next to the organic container to have employees cover food waste to minimize odors

We are happy to provide you with waste disposal signs to train staff and customers how to properly sort waste materials. Please contact GreenWaste Recovery at **831.426.2711** or zerowaste@santacruzcounty.us with your food waste questions.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ADOPTS CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN

Santa Cruz County has adopted the 2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) developed by an interdepartmental working group. The 2022 CAAP includes the most current data on climate impacts for unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The CAAP is comprised of actionable steps to reduce the causes of global warming, adapting our communities to climate hazards, and ensuring the safety and well being of those most vulnerable to climate change. Explore the plan at www.santacruzcountyca.gov/OR3/Resilience/ClimateChange.aspx



LET'S GO GREEN IN ALL BUSINESSES & SCHOOLS

The Green Business Program can help you evaluate your daily operations and achieve green goals that make a difference for everyone in Santa Cruz County. Together, we can make our corner of the world a better place to live.

Being a Certified Green Business is the clearest way to show your community and customers that you care about sustainability. Running your operations sustainably means that you are committed to conserving resources and preventing pollution in our community. Green Business certification will help you comply with environmental regulations in the areas of waste management, energy conservation, water savings, pollution prevention, and air quality.

Going Green:

- Saves money
- Improves employee wellness and productivity
- Provides a marketing edge over competitors
- Earns recognition for environmental leadership from local city and county agencies
- Attracts new customers and employees

Want to know more about becoming a Green Business? Contact the Santa Cruz County Green Business Coordinator to enroll today:

Claudia Villalta-Mejia

Bilingual Sustainability Consultant

claudiavmejia@environmentalin.com | greenbusinessca.org/jointheprogram



CUSTOMER ACCESS

To Trash, Recycling & Organics Disposal Containers

State law requires businesses to provide customers with easy access to clearly marked waste sorting containers for recycling (blue), trash (grey), and organics (green). State mandated enforcement begins January 1, 2024. Are you ready?

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND PUT YOUR CARTS AWAY

Santa Cruz County Code section 7.20.150 only allows GreenWaste Recovery collection containers to be placed within the right-of-way for 24 hours before and after pick-up time. Containers must be put away at all other times.





REDUCE WASTE: GO PLASTIC-FREE AND REUSABLE!

Why switch from single-use disposable to reusable for food service ware? Whether in your break room or dining room, eating from plastic and plastic-lined paper plates and cups can be harmful to our health, and our environment.

Plastic leaches toxins into our food and our bodies. Many single-use alternatives contain PFAS, which has been shown to damage hormone and thyroid function and sperm production. Serving food and drinks on paper or plastic plates and cups may cause a customer not to return, as many know about PFAS and how this forever chemical hides in many single-use items.

Most of the PFAS-free compostable products do not actually end up in industrial composting facilities, and thus do not biodegrade as intended. Composting and recycling are still labor- and resource-intensive processes, so regardless of the material, single-use disposable food ware is not sustainable for Earth's population and natural resources, and fills our landfills.

But the biggest reason you should switch to durable reusables (dishwasher safe) is, you will save money. Even after accounting for costs of labor, water, and electricity, replacing disposable with reusable is a more economically sustainable long-term solution. Don't believe it?



Apply for a Green Business subsidy, and we'll prove it to you. www.plasticfreerestaurants.org/subsidy

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

We can help you move closer to Zero Waste! County staff will audit your waste and recommend best management practices to help you reduce your waste and save money in the process. We can assist you in right-sizing your waste service, provide staff training to implement waste reduction and recycling strategies for your business, and help divert organic waste from the landfill to avoid State mandated enforcement penalties that begin in 2024. For more information or to schedule a FREE audit, contact a Zero Waste Outreach Coordinator at **831.454.2160** or zerowaste@santacruzcounty.us





**MAKE THIS THE
YEAR YOU
BECOME
A GREEN
BUSINESS!**

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**County of Santa Cruz
Community Development & Infrastructure**
701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2160

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Complete Mailing
Service, Inc.



Printed on 55% recycled 30% post-consumer waste paper processed chlorine-free, using soy-based inks.

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 Community Development & Infrastructure. 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

Contact Zero Waste Outreach Team 831 454-2160
or ZeroWaste@santacruzcounty.us

- Questions
- Volunteer as a Zero Waste champion



Composting Resources www.compostsantacruzcounty.org

Buena Vista Landfill & Recycling Center 831-454-5153

- Recorded information 831-454-2430

1231 Buena Vista Drive, Watsonville 95076
Open: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM;
Wed 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM

HHW Facility - Open: Wed 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM;
Fri and Sat 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM

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

- Recorded information 831-454-2430

9835 Newell Creek Road, Ben Lomond 95005
Open: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM;
Wed 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM

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-Tues, Thurs-Sat 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM;
Wed 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Ben Lomond Transfer Station -
Open: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM;
Wed 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM

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.