

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE



ZERO WASTE

News

A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery
Commercial Customers | Summer 2023



The COST of WASTE

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The **COST** *of* **WASTE**

Waste disposal is expensive. Not only do we pay for the cost of our waste service, but we also pay for most of the things we throw out -- either as products or packaging. On average, County residents throw out 4.1 pounds of waste per person per day. This amount includes organic waste and recyclable materials that are placed in the trash cart and end up in the landfill instead of being source separated and converted to new products.

Besides waste hauling costs, other landfill costs include:

- Staff to run the landfill and maintain heavy equipment;
- Landfill infrastructure, construction, and ongoing maintenance;
- Compliance with State and Federal solid waste requirements;
- Environmental compliance, sampling and reporting;
- Waste transfer costs within and outside of Santa Cruz County;
- Collection, packing, shipping, and reprocessing household hazardous waste;
- Implementing education programs that change behaviors to reduce waste:
 - Organics composting programs to reduce waste and sequester carbon in the soil;
 - Ongoing recycling training as local acceptance policies change;
 - Waste reduction strategies to eliminate waste and support a circular economy.

Reducing waste is the key to reducing waste disposal costs. Read on for more ways to reduce waste disposal costs and help save the planet in the process!



What Can You Do to Reduce Your Waste Disposal Costs?

Do you know that 40% of waste sent to landfills is materials that could be recycled, composted, or reused? Not only is it against environmental laws to put reusable materials in the trash, but it also costs you money.

The best way to save money is to divert recyclable, compostable, and reusable materials from the trash. Proper source separation will reduce the amount of trash sent to landfills and increase the amount of recyclables and organics recovered for reuse. Making less trash saves resources and saves you money if you can reduce the size of your trash cart. Those 10 pound cans should be quickly rinsed and placed in the recycle bin. Even milk bottles, heavy cream cartons, and whipped cream cans can be recycled once they are empty. Break down or cut up large cardboard packaging so there's room for all your recyclables! If your recycling still doesn't fit, call GreenWaste Customer Service at (831) 426-2711 to order a bigger recycle bin.

Make sure your customer waste station is labeled with "what goes where." BPI certified biodegradable containers can go into your green organics bin with food waste. When servicing the customer waste station, have employees use a grabber to move recyclables and food waste into the correct bins. This additional sorting prevents recycling and organics contamination and lowers waste disposal costs.

Once you notice a regular reduction in the amount of trash you and your customers produce, call GreenWaste Customer Service at (831) 426-2711 to reduce the size of your trash bin or cart.

In addition to saving money, there are other benefits to reducing your trash. These include: saving space in the landfill, increasing the recyclable materials available for reuse, increasing the availability of compost for carbon sequestration, and reducing the production of greenhouse gases from garbage decomposing in the landfill. When it comes to reducing your trash, saving money also saves the planet!



Trash Reduction Made Easy: Set Up Work-Central Waste Sorting Stations

Because you have three carts outside, why not have three containers inside too. If you are a restaurant, the kitchen is a great place for a 3-container waste sorting station and smaller containers in the prep area to collect food scraps. Empty the containers as needed in a larger organic collection can. If you are a full-service restaurant, have an organic can near where the servers or bus folks scrape the leftover food.

If you are an office, you can have a 3-can sorting station in the break room. Employees can sort their trash before they leave

each day. Post signs so people know "what goes where."

AB 827, effective July 1, 2020, is a State of California recycling law that requires businesses to provide food and recycling containers next to trash containers. Businesses that provide food to customers that self-bus must also provide separate trash, recycling and food collection containers front-of-house.

Other Ways to Reduce Your Waste

- **Keep recyclable items loose in the bin.** Save on the use of plastic bags and have more room for your recyclables.
- **Sell Items you no longer use.** Offer unused items for sale locally, hold a rummage sale, consign them locally, or post them online.
- **Donate clean reusable items.**
- **Buy quality items second hand.** Go to auctions to get shelving, plates, pans, desks and other items needed for the business instead of buying new.
- **Use and reuse the things you already have.** Bring your reusable cup when going for coffee, water or a drink at the soda fountain.
- **Don't buy disposable or single-use items.** Replace disposable/single-use items with reusables. Examples: use cloth towels, sponges, or rags for cleanup instead of single-use paper towels. Use real plates, cups, and cutlery and skip the paper and plastic ones.
- **Consider the packaging of the produce you buy.**
- **Use food scraps.** Your green bin isn't the only place for food scraps! Did you know that vegetable peels, carrot tops, cores, stems, and bones make great stock for rice, soups, and other dishes?



Together we can do better!



COMPOSTABLE BAGS USAGE

Businesses are required to separate organics (food and yard waste) from their trash. Business customers are permitted to use compostable liners, but liners are not required. We do want to share some important information about the use of compostable liners or bags.

Can I put compostable bags in my green organics cart?

Yes. Commercial customers can use compostable bags to keep their organic waste collection cans clean and to transport food scraps to the green cart. However, it is worth knowing that the bags don't break down like food. They take longer to decompose and often shred, leaving a plastic-like fiber. The County's compost contractor manually screens out bags, which increases the cost to produce municipal compost.

If you use bags:

Consider leaving it in your food collection container when you dump food scraps in the green bin.

Your best bet is to look for the logo from Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI), a not-for-profit organization that issues compostability certification widely considered the gold standard in the US. This certification is what we require in the County of Santa Cruz for any take-out-ware and compostable bags. Check their website at <https://products.bpiworld.org> to identify whether the products you use are BPI certified.

Just a reminder about carry out bags:

If you place your to-go containers in plastic carry out bags, in Santa Cruz County they must be 4.0 mil. thick (not the common 2.25 mil.). Please order the correct bags, or use 40% post-consumer paper bags or cardboard boxes for carry out.



Remodeling? Big Cleanup Project? ORDER A ROLL-OFF BIN

Need to order a roll-off bin? GreenWaste can help. Remember to only place items for the landfill in that bin; you cannot place recyclable, organic, household hazardous waste (HHW), or items from the Landfill Diversion Guide in these containers. Anything besides landfill trash is considered contamination and will be charged more to dump at Buena Vista, or refused. Plan ahead and order two bins: one for organics such as trees and unpainted wood (nails okay) and one for your trash such as painted wood, roofing materials, paneling, and particle board. Add to your order a 96-gallon blue cart for your recyclables (metal, cans, glass and plastic bottles). Please do whatever you can to separate trash from recyclable and compostable materials to help make our landfill last.



BUENA VISTA LANDFILL DIVERSION GUIDE To Save Time - Sort Your Load First!



Untreated Wood/Lumber
(No Painted Wood)



Yard Waste &
Tree Trimmings



Drywall &
Gypsum Board



Asphalt, Tile, Base Rock,
Brick, Porcelain



Clean Concrete



Clean Carpet &
Carpet Foam Pad



Tires with or without
Rims



Appliances



Propane Cylinders
(No more than 5 gal. in size)



Aluminum
Windows



Futon Mattresses, Mattresses, Box Springs, TVs or Monitors
(Limit of 5 Mattresses or TVs per day)

Not sure what we accept? Call 831.454.5153 or visit SantaCruzCountyRecycles.org

Fees Apply Unless Otherwise Noted



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Take our survey:
<https://forms.gle/eFqT6rya1hxZ9zja6>





**County of Santa Cruz
Community Development and Infrastructure**

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

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PITCH IN FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Trash Talkers recently launched a website, pitchinsantacruz.org, where residents, visitors, businesses, and schools can get involved, as well as learn more about recent Trash Talkers' achievements. Pitch in to help keep Santa Cruz County clean!



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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 Community Development & Infrastructure. 831-454-2160
www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org

- Apartments and business recycling inquiries
 - Complaints, compliments or suggestions
 - Report roadside trash 831-477-3999
- Download and use the "My Santa Cruz County" free mobile app

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.