

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE



# ZERO WASTE News

A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery  
Single-Family Residence Customers | Winter 2024



## RECYCLE RIGHT

*Choose Wisely When You Shop*

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# RECYCLE RIGHT

*Choose Wisely When You Shop*



Recycling right starts with making the right choices when you shop because so much of what we throw out at home is packaging. Not only do we have choices about the products we buy, we also have choices about the packaging they come in.

The grocery store is a great place to think about recycling. If we shop with the recycling hierarchy of “Refuse, Repair, Reduce, Reuse, and (then) Recycle” we can bring home less waste and reuse containers for food storage, too. The best choice would be to avoid packaging all together. Whenever possible, bring your own bags and containers to shop for loose produce, buy at the service deli/butcher/seafood counters, and in the bulk bins.

When buying items in packaging, choose those packed in materials that are easiest to recycle locally. Best choices include glass, unwaxed cardboard/paperboard, #1 and #2 plastics, aluminum, tin, and other metals. Packaging to avoid: materials you won't reuse, individually wrapped single-use items, Styrofoam, packaging that's hard to recycle (like chip bags and soup cartons), and other mixed materials not accepted by your local recycler.





## WHAT TO DO WITH HOT ASHES?

- If you clean the fireplace before ashes are completely cool, be sure to put ashes and embers in a metal bucket with a lid. Move the covered bucket outside and away from anything combustible.
- Do not place hot ashes in a plastic garbage can, a cardboard box, or a paper grocery bag.
- Be sure your ashes are cold before placing them in your collection container. Consider the length of time required for ashes to cool enough before placing them out for collection; ashes can stay hot for up to 72 hours.
- Once cooled, you can bag ashes and throw them away in your regular garbage, or find other ways to reuse fireplace ashes around your home.
  - Wood ash contains nutrients that can be beneficial for plant growth.
  - Ash from wood fires, such as bonfires or wood-burning stoves can be added to compost or dug directly into the garden.
  - Using wood ash in home gardens increases soil fertility and raises soil pH.
- Burnt charcoal should sit overnight or be thoroughly mixed with water until cold. After charcoal has cooled, put them in a metal container like a coffee can before placing them in your trash can.

## KEEP BATTERIES OUT OF THE LANDFILL

It is important to dispose of ALL batteries properly! Mismanaged batteries can leak toxic materials into the soil and groundwater, which can then reach our water supply. Batteries also present a fire risk when over-charged, short-circuited, submerged in water, and when they are damaged. Every year workers are put at risk and valuable waste collection equipment is destroyed when mismanaged batteries start fires.

Here is how to dispose of household batteries:

- GreenWaste Recovery customers can place household batteries in a zip-style bag on top of their blue recycle cart.
  - Batteries accepted include AA, AAA, C, D, 6-volt, 9-volt, camera batteries, nickel cadmium, and lithium-ion batteries.
  - To prevent sparks/fires, please tape the top terminals of all 9-volt rectangular batteries and 6-volt square-base batteries for disposal.
  - Note: Button-cell coin-shaped batteries are NOT accepted.
- Self-Haulers must self-haul batteries to a Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Household batteries (alkaline, button batteries, nickel-cadmium) are accepted at the Santa Cruz County Household Hazardous Waste facilities at the following times and locations:

- **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



# GET A FREE COMPOST/WORM BIN!

Register for our FREE winter and spring compost workshops. You will learn the principles of composting kitchen and yard waste using backyard bins and vermicomposting (worm composting) techniques. In-person workshops are led by Master Composters and sponsored by County of Santa Cruz Public Works. Upon completion of the workshop, GreenWaste Recovery customers in the unincorporated County are offered a free backyard composting bin or worm bin. Sign up online at <http://goo.gl/Fw6Bak> or call **831.824.6484**.



## Compost Workshops

Sat. Jan. 13	10 AM-noon	Live Oak Grange	Basic Composting
Sat. Feb. 10	10 AM-noon	Live Oak Grange	Advanced Worm Composting
Sun. Feb. 25	2-4 PM	Live Oak Grange	Basic Composting
Sun. Mar. 17	2-4 PM	ZOOM	Basic Composting
Sat. Apr. 13	10 AM-noon	Live Oak Grange	Basic Composting
Sun. May 5	2-4 PM	Live Oak Grange	Basic Composting
Sat. Jun. 8	10 AM-noon	Live Oak Grange	Basic Composting

# 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.



# 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](http://www.santacruzcountyca.gov/OR3/Resilience/ClimateChange.aspx)





## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT METHANE

METHANE is a greenhouse gas over 20-times more potent than carbon dioxide. When organic materials such as food and plant materials are buried in the landfill and break down anaerobically (without air), it creates methane.

A Global Methane Assessment conducted by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) found that immediate reductions in methane emissions are the best, swiftest chance the planet has at slowing climate change.

**NOW IS THE TIME:** Keep organic matter out of the landfill. Place your food scraps and any organic waste into your GreenWaste Recovery green organics collection cart. Start with a sprinkle of baking soda and add some dried leaves or branches (keep some handy in a 5-gallon bucket), then add your food scraps. Spray a little citronella or bug spray to deter pests. Cover the food with branches or leaves and close the lid.

**YOUR EFFORTS MATTER:** These organic materials will make compost, a nutritious fertilizer that can replenish the soil for our farmers. Additionally, you will help reduce waste in our landfill, extending its life with no recyclables or organic waste taking up valuable space.

## ZERO WASTE YOUR OUTDOOR EVENTS

Why waste time and money throwing out those single-use table settings? Prepare your zero waste kit now for picnics, camping and outdoor gatherings. A zero waste picnic kit with durable plates, cups, and utensils is a one-time investment that will make all your events easier. Store them all in a bag or tub that you can grab on the go, and place your used reusable items to take home for cleaning. Use reusable containers to bring home your leftover food, food scraps and recyclables from the campground or park. Let's work together to keep our outdoor spaces waste-free and beautiful!



# GET A FREE COMPOST/WORM BIN

details on page 4



**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:ZeroWaste@santacruzcounty.us)

- Questions
- Volunteer as a Zero Waste champion



**Composting Resources** ..... [www.compostsantacruzcounty.org](http://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.