

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE



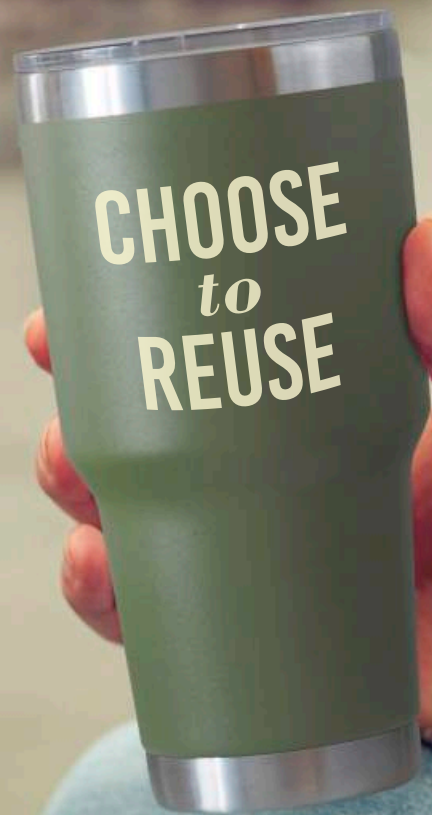
# ZERO WASTE News

A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery  
Multi-Family Residence Customers | Winter 2025



## SAY "NO" TO FOREVER CHEMICALS

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# SAY "NO" TO FOREVER CHEMICALS

Many single-use to go containers may contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to prevent liquids from leaking out. PFAS, often referred to as "forever chemicals," are known to pose risks to human health. When warm food or hot liquid is added to these containers, PFAS can leach into your meal.

To protect your health and the environment, consider the following tips:

- When shopping for fruits and vegetables, skip the plastic bags and choose plastic-free. Package-free food is often fresher, which means it will last longer at home.
- Use reusable, washable net bags for produce.
- Bring your own reusable bags, utensils, and to-go container for takeout food.
- Order food to go on a plate at your favorite restaurant. When you pick it up, place your meal in your own reusable to-go container. You will avoid PFAS from single-use container liners, reduce waste, and help businesses save money.
- Ask for takeout beverages to be filled directly into your clean reusable container.
- Gift reusable items like bags, cups, plates, utensils, and fabric napkins.
- Stop buying water and plastic with your detergent and other cleaning products. Choose detergent sheets, stick stain removers, shampoo/soap bars.
- Opt for concentrates, tablets or make DIY all-purpose cleaners in your own spray bottles.

Let's say no to forever chemicals and reduce waste together! Learn more on the Environmental Protection Agency website [www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained](https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained)

Other waste-free tips that work for you? Send your suggestions to [ZeroWaste@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:ZeroWaste@santacruzcounty.us)





# FREE COMPOSTING CLASSES

## Why Compost?

Neighbors who have tried all sorts of garden store products on their plants ask Richard Dye's wife why her roses outshine theirs. "It's Rich's compost," she replies.

As an instructor for the Compost Workshop Program, Richard shares informative and humorous anecdotes to illustrate the principles of successful home composting at free monthly events sponsored by County Public Works. Ask Rich why he composts, and he'll tell you he likes surprises—like the Kombucha squash that sprouted from his wife's rose patch after applying compost, and he hasn't had to plant cherry tomatoes in his garden in years thanks to many volunteer sprouts. By using simple backyard and worm composting techniques, he creates nutrient-rich soil amendment at home, for free.



If you're interested in learning how to create your own compost, sign up for a Composting Workshop at [goo.gl/Fw6BaK](https://goo.gl/Fw6BaK). Space is limited at these popular workshops; advance reservation required. After submitting your request, you will be notified if you are accepted in the workshop. GreenWaste customers who complete a workshop are eligible for a free compost bin.

## Winter 2025

Date	Time	Location	Class Type
Sat. Jan 11	10 AM-12 PM	Live Oak Grange	Basic Composting
Sun. Feb 9	2 PM-4 PM	Zoom	Basic Composting
Sat. Feb 22	10 AM-12 PM	Live Oak Grange	Advanced Worm Composting Symposium
Sat. Mar 15	10:30 AM-12:30 PM	Felton Branch Library	Basic Composting

## Spring 2025

Date	Time	Location	Class Type
Sat. Apr 12	1 PM-3 PM	Aptos Branch Library	Basic Composting
Sun. May 18	2 PM-4 PM	Pinto Lake Park	Basic Composting
Sat. June 14	10 AM-12 PM	Live Oak Grange	Basic Composting

# SORTING 3 STREAMS IN-HOME

Set up a 3 stream sorting system in your home for recyclables, food scraps and trash to make disposal easier at the curb.

Tips to incorporate 3 streams sorting in your household:

- Grey or black trashcan should be the smallest.
- Blue recycling can should be the largest.
- Compost/food container should be in the kitchen.
- Use a countertop pail for kitchen scraps, or repurpose a food storage container with a lid.

Call GreenWaste Recovery **(831) 426-2711** to request a countertop food scrap collection pail.



# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Traveling for work or vacation? Check the recycling and garbage rules for your destination online, or ask about what goes in each bin when you arrive. Knowing the local rules will help you sort your waste correctly, which supports the local economy and is great for the environment. Don't forget to bring your reusable water bottle, bag, spork, and cloth napkin.



# DAMAGED CART EXCHANGE

If your GreenWaste garbage, recycling or organics container is damaged, leaking, or has graffiti, please contact GreenWaste customer service at **(831) 426-2711** to request an exchange.

# REDUCING THE "YUCK" IN YOUR GREEN CART

- Layer food scraps with leaves or yard waste
- Use baking soda at the bottom to reduce odors
- Put your cart out every week for service
- Wash and disinfect with a vinegar and water solution; add essential oils to manage odors







# NEW CRV RULES START JANUARY 2025

Starting January 2025, California Redemption Value (CRV) retail beverage dealers include:

- Supermarkets, community markets, gas marts, convenience stores, liquor stores, variety/drug stores, bulk stores, and health food stores larger than 5,000 square feet that sell beverages in CRV containers.
- Retailers within an area with no redemption or recycling location must redeem in-store or participate in a dealer cooperative redemption plan.

CRV includes beverage cans and bottles, plus SB 1013 brought juice, wine and distilled spirits into the California Beverage Container Recycling Program effective January 1, 2024. This includes boxed wines, cans, glass, plastic, bimetal containers and pouches. Check your receipts to see which items you paid CRV deposits, or learn more about these changes at: <https://cdi.santacruzcountyca.gov/PublicWorks/RecyclingSolidWaste/CRVRedemption.aspx>

Check for signage in your local store or ask what days, times, and quantities you can redeem. Then pack up your reusable shopping bags with your redemption items before going shopping!

## PITCH IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

The Pitch In Initiative is a Santa Cruz County-wide effort to eliminate litter and illegal dumping.

Supporting this initiative are Congress members Lofgren and Panetta, Speaker Rivas, Senator Laird, Watsonville, Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, agencies, and organizations including our libraries, The Community Foundation, Farm Bureau, Santa Cruz METRO, Santa Cruz Land Trust, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, State Parks, CalTrans, law enforcement, and others.

Join this effort to help make Santa Cruz the cleanest county in the state. Share the Pitch In Initiative with your friends and neighbors, look for Pitch In signs, and join a cleanup. Go to [www.pitchinsantacruz.org](http://www.pitchinsantacruz.org) to learn more.



## EARTH DAY SANTA CRUZ 2025

Saturday, April 19  
11 AM-4 PM

Cooper Street,  
Downtown Santa Cruz

More information  
coming soon at  
[www.scearthday.org](http://www.scearthday.org)



## EARTH DAY WATSONVILLE

Sunday, April 27  
12 NOON - 4 PM

Watsonville Plaza

Join us in healing the earth  
for our children.

- Conservation resources
- Food
- Music
- Kids' activities



# SAVE THE DATE!



## EARTH DAY SANTA CRUZ 2025

FIND DETAILS AND  
MORE EVENTS ON PAGE 5

### 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.