



# ZERO WASTE

## News

A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery  
Multi-Family Residence Customers | Summer 2021

# FACTS ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING

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# FACTS ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING:



- The past two decades have been the hottest in the past 400 years.
- As a result of global warming and pollution, coral reefs are suffering the worst bleaching with the highest dying record since 1980.
- Global warming is causing extreme weather changes, exhibiting its implications in forest fires, heat waves, tornados, and severe tropical storms throughout the world.
- Rising sea levels could threaten the lives of people living along the coastal areas. Sea levels have risen about 7 inches in the last 100 years.



## How does this affect Santa Cruz County?

Currently in Santa Cruz County, 797 residential and 122 commercial buildings are identified by FEMA as being at risk of flooding (although many of these are protected by levees and other structures). By 2060 more than 800 additional buildings are at risk of impact from a predicted 2.4 foot rise in sea levels as coastal protective structures begin to fail, according to the Santa Cruz County Coastal Climate Change Vulnerability Report (2017) prepared by Central Coast Wetlands Group at Moss Landing Marine Labs.

The climate crisis has hit home in Santa Cruz County with drought and unseasonably warm weather. Last year, the CZU Fire destroyed 86,000 acres of forest, and nearly 1,000 families lost their homes.

The Coastal Commission is currently considering environmental policies and private property coastal access, which is a very controversial issue for our coastal towns.



“Today, no nation can find lasting security without addressing the climate crisis. We face all kinds of threats in our line of work, but few of them truly deserve to be called existential. The climate crisis does. Climate change is making the world more unsafe and we need to act.”

*Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III  
at the 2021 Leaders Summit on Climate.*

## What does this mean for us?

- The County of Santa Cruz has a Zero Waste Plan, approved in 2015, that will lead the County in our Zero Waste goals. Follow our progress with Vision Santa Cruz: Road to Zero Waste: [www.santacruzcounty.us/VisionSantaCruz/PerformanceMeasurement/RoadtoZeroWaste.aspx](http://www.santacruzcounty.us/VisionSantaCruz/PerformanceMeasurement/RoadtoZeroWaste.aspx)



- The City of Santa Cruz Local Coastal Program develops strategies and policies to support local beach and public access protection. Funding comes from the California Coastal Commission for development of the Sea Level Rise Strategies and Policy. The goals of this project are to provide the Santa Cruz community and decision makers with more comprehensive information and recommendation for programs, policies and actions that can achieve resilient coastal access.
- Currently, most businesses that generate food waste must participate in food waste collection to comply with AB 1826. Diverting food waste from landfills helps reduce the creation of methane, a powerful climate warming greenhouse gas.
- January 1, 2022 the most stringent State restriction ever on short-lived climate pollutants will be implemented as Senate Bill 1383 goes into effect. This law requires jurisdictions to reduce the amount of organic waste (green waste, food waste and fibers such as paper and cardboard) dumped into landfills by 75%, while increasing by 20% edible food recovery, diverting food to be donated instead of thrown in the trash bin by 2025.
- Targeting January 2022 to comply with SB 1383, new food waste collection programs for multifamily dwellings and single-family resident customers are in development. We encourage residents to compost as this may be considered an exception to the rule.
- County of Santa Cruz is in the process of changing our waste infrastructure: The goal will be that the Buena Vista Landfill will be a transfer station and compost facility.



Achieving Zero Waste has far-reaching impacts on climate sustainability.



Scan for the Zero Waste Plan

# HOW TO RECYCLE...



## BATTERIES

GreenWaste Recovery Customers can place their household batteries in a Ziplock bag and set on TOP of your blue (recycle) cart. Batteries accepted curbside include AA, AAA, C, D, 6-Volt, 9-volt (please tape the top of the 9-volt and 6-volt with spring terminals), camera batteries, nickel cadmium and lithium ion.

Grey Bears at the Buena Vista Landfill and Ben Lomond Transfer Station take all household batteries AAA, AA, C, D (please tape the tops of these). Grey Bears Chanticleer accepts lead-acid and UPS (surge protection, laptop, lithium batteries).

The Household Hazardous Waste facilities accept all types of batteries. For locations, days and hours of operation visit [www.SantaCruzCountyRecycles.org](http://www.SantaCruzCountyRecycles.org).

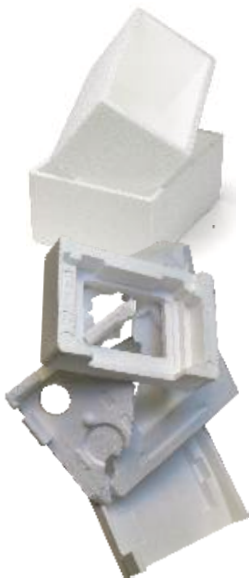


## PROPANE TANKS

Empty 1-gallon to 5-gallon tanks may be dropped off at the landfill or transfer station for a fee. Over 5 gallons, we encourage folks to take them to A & S metals in Watsonville \$15/ea.

## STYROFOAM

Grey Bears located at 2710 Chanticleer Ave, Santa Cruz will recycle your Styrofoam everyday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Their machine uses heat to melt it into a rigid substance that is more cost-effective to transport. Material is transformed into many different downstream products, such as picture frames, furniture, trim molding and insulation. Grey Bears only accepts white hard #6 Styrofoam found with appliances and electronics, and the cubed medicine coolers. No packing peanuts or foam.



## LIGHT BULBS

It is illegal to throw compact fluorescent light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, high-density discharge bulbs, sodium bulbs or neon bulbs into the trash or recycling bin. Here are some options:

Santa Cruz residents can, at no cost, recycle fluorescent lamps, including tubes and compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's) at several retail drop-off locations throughout the County. Limit is 10 bulbs per day. For more information check [www.SantaCruzCountyRecycles.org](http://www.SantaCruzCountyRecycles.org).

Bulbs may be disposed at the Household Hazardous Waste facility for a fee.



## UPDATE: TREATED WOOD WASTE

For the latest information on how to handle this hazardous material, please check the Department of Toxic Substance Control at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov) or the County's website for updates at [www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/RecyclingTrash.aspx](http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/RecyclingTrash.aspx)



# THE ROAD TO ZERO WASTE

REDUCE

RECYCLE

REUSE

## How do we help save the planet?

Try to do something good for the planet each day. Do a little extra for the days you may not have time to do anything.

Think about the Butterfly Effect. This is when one small action, like a flap of the butterfly wing may cause a large effect elsewhere, such as a tornado or tidal wave in another part of the world. What you do today may inspire others to do even more.

For a local perspective, check out County of Santa Cruz Zero Waste Manager, Tim Goncharoff's Ted Talk "The Banana Slug Effect; How One Small Weird Town is Creating a More Sustainable World"

[www.ted.com/talks/tim\\_goncharoff\\_the\\_banana\\_slug\\_effect](http://www.ted.com/talks/tim_goncharoff_the_banana_slug_effect)

Take for example, cleaning the beach. As you pick up different plastic sizes and shapes in beautiful colors (that may look like food to birds and fish), someone might see you doing it and do it themselves.

## Here is a simple list of things you can do to keep yourself and friends on track to restoring the Earth.

- ✓ Pick up 10 pieces of trash a day. That is 3,650 pieces of trash a year! Multiply by 100, a 1000, or even 10,000 if others do the same!
- ✓ Change your home cleaning products. Replace laundry detergent in large plastic containers with laundry sheets that are easy to carry, take up less room in the cabinet, and less plastic. To clean other things around the house, fill reusable glass containers with bulk or concentrated products. Lotion, shampoo, and other products are becoming available in bulk and concentrates. Check out Ethos in Capitola!
- ✓ Buy local products in less packaging. Fruits and vegetables come in their own skins, no wrapper needed at the farmer markets.
- ✓ Mend your clothing. Check YouTube for help or ask friends.
- ✓ Plant trees so they can take carbon out of the air and make oxygen.



- ✓ Take the bus, train, or ride your bicycle. Stay healthy and take the side roads to stay safe and breathe less carbon from cars.
- ✓ BYOE - Bring your own everything! Bring your reusable utensils, cup, cloth napkins, plate, and to go container for take out and leftovers.
- ✓ Turn off the sink water while brushing your teeth.
- ✓ Switch to bamboo toilet paper that breaks down quicker than regular toilet paper. Bamboo grows faster than trees.
- ✓ Recycle your dry carpet and non-wool rugs (stains okay) at the landfill for a reduced disposal rate.
- ✓ Recycle mattresses and box springs FREE at the landfill or transfer station (up to 5 each per visit).
- ✓ Compost at home with worms or backyard compost set up. Sign up for a class! [goo.gl/Fw6BaK](https://goo.gl/Fw6BaK)
- ✓ Pack your trash when you go to the beach or park. Remember, if you brought it there, you should take it back home to sort and dispose properly.
- ✓ Plan meals, check your fridge and pantry first, and make a list before shopping to prevent buying too much that might be wasted and save money!

Questions? Email [zerowaste@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:zerowaste@santacruzcounty.us) for answers!



# PACK YOUR TRASH



and other tips for a sustainable summer on page 5

## County of Santa Cruz Public Works

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

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage

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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 Public Works Dept.** ..... 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

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](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-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.