

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT LOCAL TASK FORCE
Thursday, December 4, 2025, 3:00 – 4:53 pm
Capitola City Hall – Community Room
420 Capitola Road, Capitola CA 9500



Meeting Minutes

- 1) **Welcome and Quorum Verification** - Quorum was present in the room but both chair and vice chair were absent at 3:00pm, the meeting start time. Citizen Representative, Jacob Guth volunteered to act as chair and called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm. Staff called roll and meeting attendance was noted as follows:
 - Voting Members/Alternates Present: Jacob Guth (County, citizen rep/volunteer chair), Erika Senyk (Capitola), Leslie O’Malley (Santa Cruz, alternate), Greg Wimp (Scotts Valley), Antonio Banderas (Watsonville, alternate), Tami Stolzenhaller (Watsonville, alternate).
 - Members/Alternates Absent: Justin Cummings (County), Felipe Hernandez (County, chair), Sandy Brown (County, alternate), Ramon Gomez (County, alternate), Susan Westman (Capitola, alternate), Bob Nelson (Santa Cruz), Scott Newsome (Santa Cruz), Rene Golder (Santa Cruz, alternate), Rodolfo Onchi (Scotts Valley, alternate), Ari Parker (Watsonville, vice chair), Will Smith (Watsonville).
 - Task Force Staff Present: Beau Hawksford (County), Kasey Kolassa (County - online), Darcy Pruitt (County)
 - Agency Staff Present: Bret Williamson (County-online), Christina Horvat (County), Mary Ann LoBalbo (County), Brian Fontes (County-online) Mindy Esqueda (Scotts Valley-online).
 - Guests Present: Lawrence Nussbaum (Environmental Innovations, guest presenter-online), Claudia Villalta-Mejia (Environmental Innovations), Laura Chain (CalRecycle–online), Kelly Murray (Grey Bears–online) Andrew Hall (online).
- 2) **Oral communications – Public:** No communications received from the public.
- 3) **Oral communications - Task Force members/alternates:** Tami Stolzenhaller of Watsonville announced the California Air Resources Board (CARB) change to the Landfill Methane Rule. On November 20th CARB considered and “approved” updates to the state’s Landfill Methane Regulation, which seeks to reduce landfill emissions and enable to earlier detection and mitigation of subsurface temperature events. While CARB “approved” the regulation, it sent the proposal back and directed staff to reconsider the regulatory timelines; provide additional flexibility for operators to address unique facility characteristics; to clarify that limits on system downtime do not include circumstances outside of the operator’s control (like power disruptions); and address other implementation issues.
- 4) **Review Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)** – Leslie O’Malley made a motion to approve the September 4, 2025 meeting minutes. Tami Stolzenhaller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5) **Jurisdictional Updates** – County staff provided a brief update on the November 9th marine flare collection event that was funded by a Household Hazardous Waste Discretionary Grant from CalRecycle. The marine flare collection event was a partnership between California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), Santa Cruz County, the City of Santa Cruz, and the Santa Cruz Port District. The collection event was scheduled from 8am to 12 noon at the Santa Cruz Port District maintenance yard located at 425 Brommer St. The public collection event was well attended with

145 participants, collected 629 pounds of explosive marine flares, handed out 48 electronic reusable flares, and educated participants about switching from single use explosive flares to reusable electronic flares. The event also included a stop at the County's Buena Vista Household Hazardous Waste facility to collect the County's stored marine flares for proper disposal as part of this event. This marine flare collection event was an important collaboration with CPSC that made it possible to coordinate our local event with other similar events across Northern California to share resources and reduce costs.

- 6) **Guest Presentation on Reusable Dishware** – Lawrence Nussbaum of Environmental Innovations (EI) presented information on reusable dishware programs in the northern California region, including case studies, lessons learned, and opportunities to develop local programs to make the change from disposable to reusable dishware. Lawrence introduced the Task Force to EI and the work they do in the community. EI is a local, woman owned, certified green business providing a variety of sustainable, adaptive, environmental program services to business, governments and non-profit organizations. EI's work in the food ware space includes reusable readiness surveys and data analysis, educational resources, outreach campaigns, technical assistance, financial assistance, vendor relations, compliance support and 1 to 1 outreach to thousands of food facilities. EI's regional food ware campaigns in the Bay and Monterey Bay Areas include: Foodware Aware in San Mateo County, Project Food ware in Cupertino and Turn the Tide on Plastic in Seaside. Lawrence talked about different types of food ware approaches (mandatory v. voluntary) that address different types of food ware. Many jurisdictions have mandatory disposable food ware ordinances that include Styrofoam bans, requirements for compostable or fiber based compostable food ware and accessories by request. Voluntary programs tend to be incentive based and include reusable assistance grants, green business assistance, and reuse to go programs. Some of the reasons to prioritize reuse are:
- a. Compostable food ware compliance can be difficult: confusing compostable food ware requirements/standards, cost, availability, and functionality challenges for food businesses.
 - b. Compost acceptance: Mixed messages about compostable food ware accepted by haulers and composted into recycled organic products
 - c. Evolving SB 54 rules adding uncertainty to the future of compostable food ware.
 - d. Reusable food ware offers the most reliable, cost-saving way to cut single use plastic waste, especially for dine-in service

San Mateo County Foodware Aware Program includes a County adopted model foodware ordinance that requires:

- a. fiber-based compostables,
- b. encourages reusables (not required) and
- c. accessories by request (AB 1276)

Seventeen local jurisdictions adopted the County's ordinance, three incorporated a reusable requirement for dine in. The County's Foodware Aware Program offers outreach, education, technical assistance and resources. The County's leadership on education and enforcement policy for adopting cities provides a unified consistent implementation approach for thousands of food facilities throughout San Mateo County.

San Mateo County's program is a proven model for success:

- a. Developed program branding, educational materials, and a website
- b. Created purchasing guides, window clings, table tents, and signage
- c. Included significant outreach to food businesses in the form of mailers, calls, and site visits to provide technical assistance to food businesses
- d. Provided over 140 reuse grants to help businesses to transition to reusable foodware
- e. Culturally competent outreach in English, Spanish and Chinese languages

Compliance rates varied by Foodware Aware programs:

- a. Compostables fiber foodware had 14% compliance, 27% non-compliance, and 59% partial compliance rates.
- b. Accessories by request had a 62% compliance, 20% non-compliance, and 17% partial compliance rates
- c. Reusables for dine-in had a 54% compliance, 32% non-compliance, and 14% partial compliance rates.

Looking more closely at reusables for dine-in, plates and bowls, cups, and utensils were most readily adopted. Business type also influenced adoption rates: full-service restaurants had the highest adoption rates at 82%, fast casual and coffee shops had middling adoption rates at 44%, with the lowest adoption rates for fast food restaurants (3%), boba (4%) and juice/smoothy shops (6%). Ownership types also influenced dine-in adoption rates. Independent owners had the highest adoptions rates at 66%, followed by small regional chains at 59%, and national/international chains at 18%.

Reuse for dine-in is the low hanging fruit for disposable foodware source reduction:

- a. Easy to scale since many restaurants already use some reusable items
- b. Delivers meaningful cost savings for business
- c. Improves the dining experience and food presentation for customers
- d. Clear requirements for business operators
- e. Fewer barriers than switching to compostables or other single use alternatives
- f. Can do away with disposable foodware on all dine-in

Reuse Assist Mini-Grant Program help make the switch to reusables implemented in Seaside, Sunnyvale, Oakland, Alameda County and San Mateo County (300 conversions and counting)

5 step model: Recruit, Identify needs, Deliver reusables, Support business, Track implementation.

- a. Works with or without an ordinance
- b. Helps overcome business cost & capacity barriers
- c. Captures metrics
- d. Scalable: pilot program to jurisdiction wide approach

Lessons Learned – What Works Best

- a. Provide simple, clear requirements for dine-in
- b. Provide multiple touchpoints including 1 on 1 outreach
- c. Provide grants or incentives to offset upfront costs
- d. Partnerships with Community Based Organizations to reach local businesses
- e. Produce consistent education/outreach materials across jurisdictions
- f. Explore to-go system partnerships and BYO campaigns

There was a question-and-answer session after the presentation that included a conversation about strategies to work with businesses that have a lower adoption rates. Answers included exploring BYO options and education around AB 619 that outlines how businesses can develop “touchless” methods to accept and fill customer containers. Steps to normalize BYO and reuse programs were also discussed. Other questions related to calculated savings for switching to reusables and if labor costs were factored into the analysis. Generally, the additional labor to wash dishes was considered and did not significantly impact bottom line because most food businesses are already washing dishes and using some reusables in their prep/cook and serving operations. The savings come from not buying disposables. Questions about storing reusables was asked and is generally not an issue because of the reduction in storage needs with the use of fewer disposable items. There were also questions about working with national chains and franchisees that may have limited options for adopting reusables based on the contract requirements of the franchisor. The conversations can be difficult to resolve with larger chains because local laws don’t make a big impression. Smaller chains tend to be more responsive, especially if the changes don’t affect

branding and improve customer experience. The bigger challenge with most franchised chains is the increase in to-go business and less restaurant space devoted to dine-in seating, so even if you convert to dine-in reusables you may not see a significant shift away from single-use products because of the increase in takeout food service.

- 7) **CRV Update** – County Staff provided a brief overview on CRV developments since the September Task Force meeting that focused primarily on CRV redemption locally. There was a general discussion of the remaining problems, including slow reverse vending machines that fill up quickly, the hurdles (apps and paypal account) required to use reverse vending machines, the poor service when the reverse vending machine serves the convenience zone, and the limited participation of instore redemption. County staff also provided information on how to complain to CalRecycle about CRV problems. Tami Stolzenthaler mentioned that Cuevas Recycling is interested in opening additional recycling centers in the County and offered to provide contact information if needed.
- 8) **SB 1053 Update (Attachment B)** – County Staff walked through proposed amendments to the County’s existing bag reduction ordinance to comply with SB 1053 requirements. New state requirements ban plastic carryout bags starting 1/1/2026 and increase the postconsumer recycling content of recycled paper carryout bags from a minimum of 40% to 50% starting 1/1/2028. There was a general discussion among city and county staff regarding next steps to bring the county update to the Board of Supervisors. Generally, Task Force members reviewed the proposed amendments and agreed they were adequate and suggested that the County “go first” and the cities will follow once adoption of the revisions is complete.
- 9) **Embedded Battery Presentation** – County Staff provided an update on embedded batteries and the changes SB 1215 (Newman, 2022) makes to the Covered Electronic Waste (CEW) Recycling Program. SB 1215 is California’s Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022 to improve embedded battery product recycling and reduce fire risks associated improper disposal. State law changes define embedded battery items as “*a product containing a battery from which the battery is not designed to be easily removed from the product by the user of the product with no more than commonly used household tools.*” There are embedded battery products that are specifically exempted from the law because they are covered either by other programs or regulated as medical devices. These exempt products include: medical devices (21 USC § 321(h)) durable medical equipment (42 CFR § 414.202), and devices to support/sustain human life (21 USC § 360c(a)(1)(B&C)), already covered electronic devices (PRC § 42463(g)(1)(A)), energy storage systems (PUC § 2835(a)), and electronic nicotine delivery systems (15 USC § 375(7)). Consumers will be charged a disposal fee when purchasing covered embedded battery products. Manufacturers are required to label covered products with brand name and battery chemistry used in the product. Manufacturers are also required to submit product sales data. CalRecycle and DTSC will collaborate to set the disposal fee and collection/recycling payments.
- 10) **Legislative Update (Attachment C)** – County Staff provided an overview of bills passed and bills the passed through the legislature but were vetoed by the Governor in the 2025 legislative cycle. Two of the composting bills we were watching passed and became law: AB 411 which allows composting of certain livestock carcasses and AB 279 increases the size of permit exempt agricultural composting operations that meet specific feedstock, volume, and zoning requirements. Many of the bills we were watching languished in committee and may be taken up in 2026. These bills include AB 864 which would require DTSC to develop rules to increase material recovery from solar photovoltaic panels and SB 377 which would require the Public Utilities Commission to work with the Air Resources Board to advance the development and use of biomethane.

11) Call for meeting agenda items: Discussion re durables, SB 54 update, Portland's deconstruction program

12) Meeting Adjourned at 4:53



Reusable Dishware Presentation Environmental Innovations

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force
December 4, 2025



Reusable Dishware Programs: Case Studies, Lessons & Opportunities
Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force



December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes
Attachment A
Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



Environmental Innovations

Small and Medium-sized Business and Sustainability Outreach Specialists

- Local, Woman-owned B corp, Certified Green Business
- Serving businesses, governments, and nonprofits in California and Nationwide
- Custom, tailored programs in numerous services areas
- Coordinate the California Green Business Network and a dozen municipal Green Business Programs

Our Approach:

- Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM)
- Equity-focused programs
- Culturally appropriate and language specific services
- Community Based Organization engagement

environmentalin.com



Our Services

- ★SMB Environmental and Resiliency Outreach
- ★Climate Action and Adaptation Planning
- ★Stormwater Permitting
- ★SB 1383 Outreach & Compliance
- ★Edible Food Recovery
- ★Foodware Ordinance Compliance
- ★Green Business Certification Assistance
- ★Waste Management
- ★Energy Efficiency Services
- ★Electrification Outreach
- ★Equity Program Design



Environmental Innovations in the Foodware Space

- Reusable-readiness surveys and data analysis
- Educational resources
- Outreach campaigns and technical assistance
- Financial incentives distribution
- Vendor relations
- CBO partnerships
- Compliance support
- 1:1 outreach to thousands of food facilities

CLIENTS

County of San Mateo, County of San Benito City of Seaside, City of Watsonville, City of Cupertino, City of Sunnyvale, City of Capitola, City of Scotts Valley, City of Marina, Salinas Valley Recycles, City of Mountain House, City of Pinole (new), City of Irvine (new)

Foodware Campaigns





Different Municipalities: Voluntary vs Mandated Initiatives

Disposable Foodware Ordinances

- Styrofoam bans
- Compostable foodware
- Fiber-based compostable foodware
- Reusables for Dine-in
- Accessories by Request (AB 1276)

Voluntary Programs (Incentive-based)

- Reusable Assistance Grants
- Green Business Assistance
- Reuse To Go Programs



Why Prioritize Reuse?

- Compostable product standards, costs, availability, and functionality are challenging for businesses
- Waste haulers and composters often give mixed messages about what's acceptable
- SB 54 rules are still evolving, adding uncertainty
- Reuse offers the most reliable, cost-saving way to cut single-use plastic waste - especially for dine-in

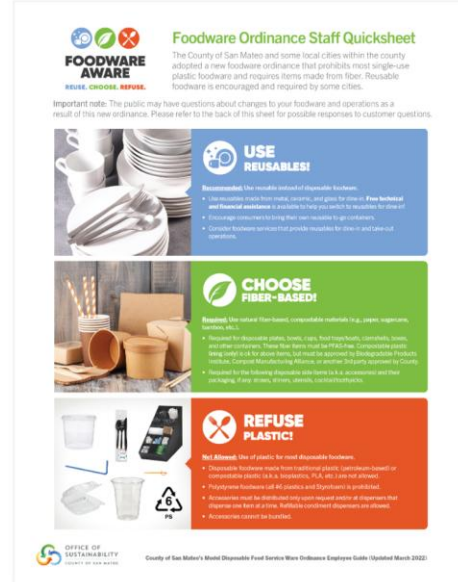


December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes
Attachment A
Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



San Mateo County (SMC):
A County-Led Framework

- County adopted a Model Foodware Ordinance
 - Fiber-base compostables
 - Reuse encouraged, not required
 - Accessories by request (AB 1276)
- 17 jurisdictions adopted (3 incorporated reusable requirement)
- County leads education and enforcement for adopting cities
- Provides a unified, consistent approach for thousands of food facilities
- Foodware Aware Program offers outreach, education, technical assistance, and resources



SMC Foodware Aware Campaign:
A proven model for success

- Developed program branding, educational materials and website
- Created purchasing guides, window clings, table tents and signage
- Sent 4,580 mailers, completed 2,281+ calls and site visits, and provided 507 technical assistance sessions
- 140+ reuse grants to transition businesses
- Culturally competent outreach via Spanish and Chinese-speaking CBO partners
- Expos and vendor partnerships



December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes
 Attachment A
 Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



Example of Custom Resources

ASK FOR ACCESSORIES
 (also required by state law AB 1276)
PREGUNTE POR ACESORIOS
 (también lo exige la ley estatal AB 1276)

Help Us Reduce Waste
Ayúdenos a reducir los residuos

smcfoodware.org

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Plastic-Free Guide for Boba Shops

FOODWARE AWARE
 San Mateo County Sustainability Department

The San Mateo County Disposable Foodware Ordinance bans single-use plastic foodware, including compostable plastic (bioplastic, PLA, CPLA, TPLA), for drinking cups, utensils, straws, and food containers. Instead, restaurants and cafes are required to use fiber-based compostable foodware or reusable foodware. Boba shops across the Bay Area have successfully made the switch and are taking other actions to be more sustainable.

Urban Ritual | San Mateo, CA

- Eliminated plastic cups and implemented branded fiber boba cups, lids and straws.
- Partnered with Clopp Reusables to offer a rentable reusable cup service.
- Market their sustainability efforts as a marketing tool to get more customers.

Nano's Ohana | Half Moon Bay, CA

- Sells branded reusable boba cups that come with a reusable lid and straw.
- Customers receive a discount when they bring their own boba cup or straw.
- Invested in reusable foodware for special weekend menu items, which saves the business \$3,302 every year.

Mr. Green Bubble Tea | Menlo Park, CA

- Provides drinks in reusable mason jars.
- Uses reusable baskets, utensils, and a bussing station with eye-popping signage for their customers.
- Promotes dining on-site, which elevates the entire cafe experience as a memorable event.
- Uses a separate and detachable lid rather than a seal.

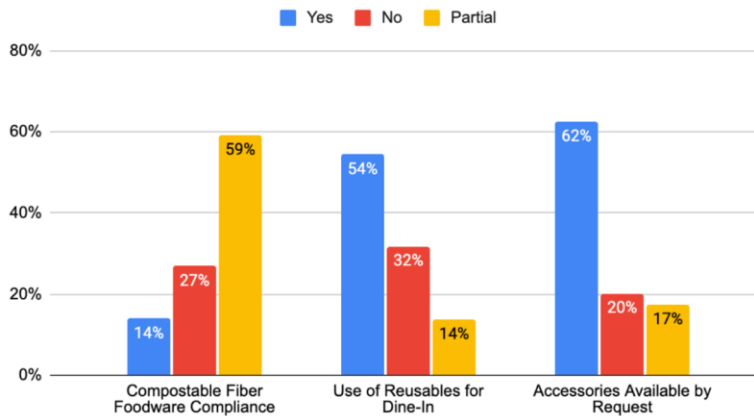
Teaspoon | Palo Alto, CA

- Serves boba tea in reusable mason jars with reusable straws when the customer stays on-site. Serves water in reusable plastic tumblers.
- A Bring-Your-Own cup discount is highly visible to guests.
- Developed a Bubble Straw Club with Girl Scout Troop 60018. Customers receive a free boba tea after bringing their own reusable straw 25 times.
- Sells stainless steel straws and branded boba tea cups in the cafe.



SMC Compliance Results

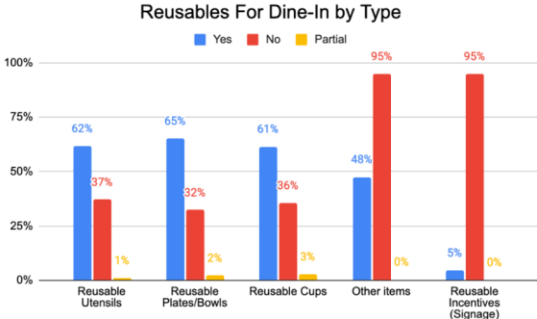
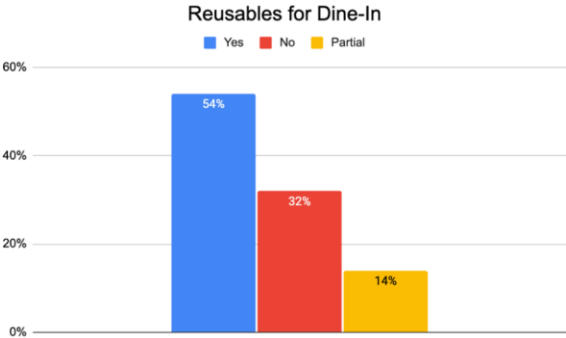
Overall Compliance Findings



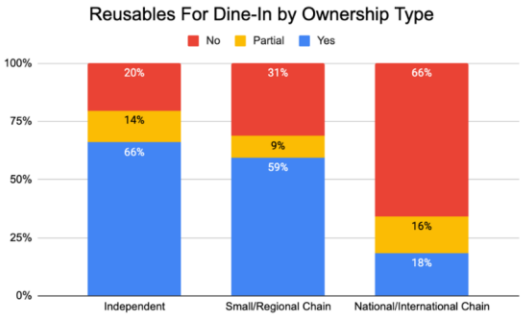
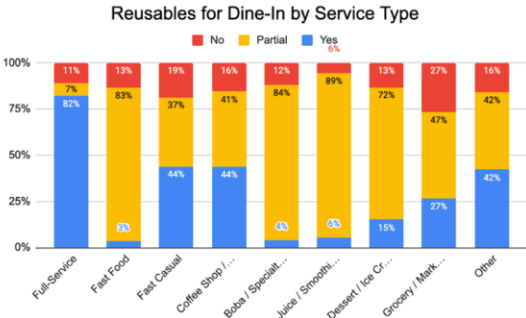
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 Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



Reuse Adoption

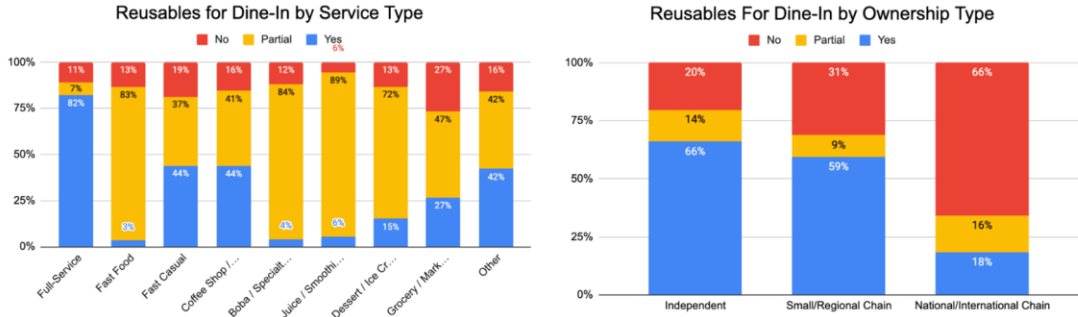


Variation in Reuse Adoption





Variation in Reuse Adoption



Why the SMC Model Matters for Santa Cruz County

- Demonstrates how a County can lead a multi-city rollout
- Reduces duplication of effort for each city
- Ensures consistent messaging to businesses
- Even voluntary reuse adoption increases when supported with:
 - Education
 - Materials
 - Technical assistance
 - Mini-grants



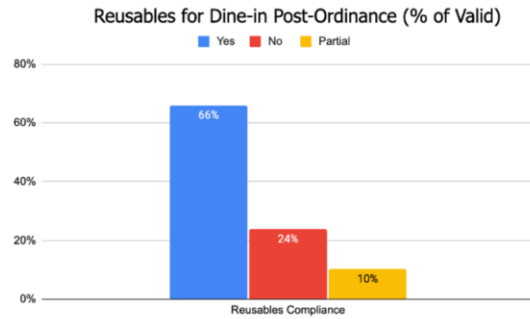
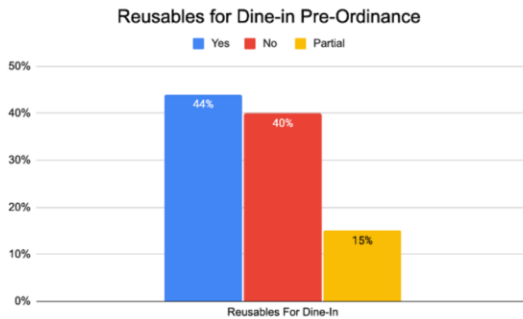


Reuse for Dine-In: Low Hanging Fruit

- Many restaurants already use some reusable items
- Delivers meaningful cost savings for businesses
- Improves the dining experience and presentation
- Easy to scale with jurisdiction support
- Clear, straightforward requirements for operators
- Fewer operational barriers than switching to compostables or other single-use alternatives
- Source reduction: turns off the single-use “spigot” entirely



Reusables Ordinance as Driver



City of Cupertino: Reuse for Dine-In Ordinance plus Outreach and Education increased Reusables Use for Dine-In



ReUse Assist Mini-Grant Program

Make the Switch to Reusables
 Save Money • Improve Customer Experience • Reduce Waste

Replacing disposable foodware with real plates, cups, and utensils can save \$2,000 - \$18,000 per year.

Get up to \$500 in FREE reusable foodware and hands on support!

STOPWASTE | ReUse Assist

- **5-Step Model:** Recruit → Identify → Deliver → Support → Track
- Works with or without ordinance
- Helps overcome business cost & capacity barriers
- Captures metrics
- Scalable pilot-to-citywide approach

300 conversions and counting

Implemented in Seaside, Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Oakland, Alameda County, and San Mateo County



Case Studies

Red's Donuts, Seaside



Before

After

- \$12,887 total annual savings
- 186,810 disposable items reduced per year
- 3,778 pounds of annual waste reduction

Tasty Subs and Pizza, Sunnyvale



Before

After

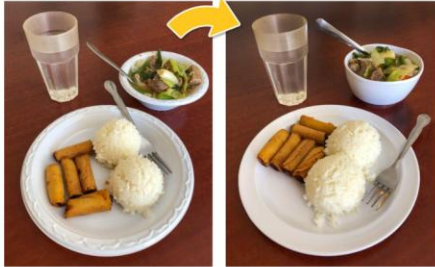
- \$18,000 in annual net cost savings
- 118,000 disposable items reduced per year
- 1,600 pounds of annual waste reduction

December 4, 2025 Task Force Meeting Minutes
Attachment A
Environmental Innovations – Reusable Dishware



Case Studies

Manila Eatery, Colma



Before

After

- \$4,693 of annual savings
- 54,507 disposable items reduced per year
- 2,240 pounds of annual waste reduction

Del Oro Taqueria Mexican Grill, San Mateo



Before

After

- \$2,227 total annual savings
- 68,133 disposable items reduced per year
- 811 pounds of annual waste reduction



Promotions

- Listing on Sunnyvale Website
- Social Media Promotions
- Article in Homestead High School's newspaper
- Feature in newsletter

Sunnyvale Enter Search Keywords

Your Government Recreation and Community Homes, Streets and Property News Center and Events Calendar

Reusable Foodware Pilot
Post Date: 12/06/2023 2:51 PM

Disposable plastic foodware like utensils, plates and cups are often not recyclable. They get dumped in landfills. They often end up as litter in our streets and waterways. To reduce the use of plastic foodware we are piloting a new program. The purpose is to replace plastic with reusable or compostable options.

Restaurants listed below are participating in the pilot. For dine-in customers, they're testing reusable foodware. For to-go orders, they're testing compostable utensils and containers.

The pilot program ends early March 2024. We will then report the results to City Council.

Besides visiting these restaurants, go to SiliconValleyReduces.org. There you'll find a list of restaurants that let you bring your own reusable containers.

Dine-in Reusables

- Bagel Place Café
- Bambu Desserts & Drinks
- The Bay Fish and Chips
- bb.q Chicken Sunnyvale
- Cocohodo Sunnyvale
- Cup n' Cone
- ES Suites Sunnyvale
- Lopez Taqueria
- Pupusa Time
- Sunnyvale Saigon Seafood Restaurant
- Taqueria Azteca
- Tasty Subs and Pizza
- Wok's On Express

To-go Compostables

- DL Brazuca
- Falafel Bite
- K's Café
- Pad Thai Cuisine
- Tacos Azteca

sunnyvale_environment
Sunnyvale, California

Businesses Reducing Plastic

Lopez Taqueria

15 likes



Reuse Solutions for Take-Out

Third Party Reusable Services

Example - Okapi: App-based reusable dishware rental services available at restaurants and cafes



BYO Education Campaigns

Normalize bringing your own cup or container and help businesses implement BYO-friendly practices



Lessons Learned - What Works Best

1. Provide simple, clear requirements for dine-in
2. Provide multiple outreach touchpoints including 1:1 outreach
3. Provide grants or incentives to offset upfront cost
4. CBO partnerships to reach immigrant-owned businesses
5. Produce consistent materials across jurisdictions
6. Provide opportunities and signage
7. Explore to-go system partnerships and BYO campaigns





Thank You! Questions?

Contact: Lawrence Nussbaum
lnussbaum@environmentalin.com



environmentalin.com





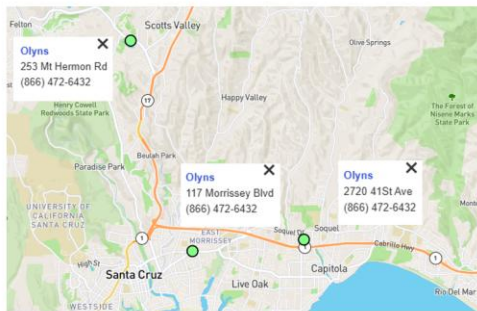
California Redemption Value (CRV) Santa Cruz County Local Redemption Options

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force
December 4, 2025

How to Find CRV Redemption Locations

In-Store Redemption Services:

<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/InStoreRedemption>



CRV Reverse Vending Machine Locations



CRV Recycling Center Locations

Recycling Center Redemption Services:

<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/RecyclingCenters>

CalRecycle Oversees Statewide CRV Program



CalRecycle oversees the state's Beverage Container Recycling Program, including:

- Stand-alone recycling centers
- Retailer redemption locations

CalRecycle regulates operations of these businesses to ensure they follow this recycling program's rules.

File complaints with CalRecycle at - <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/complaints/>



Questions?
Thank you!



SB 1053 – Plastic Bag Ban Jurisdictional Discussion

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force
December 4, 2025

New Carryout Bag Requirements SB 1053



State law places new restrictions on the types of bags most grocery, retail stores with a pharmacy, convenience stores, food marts, and liquor stores can distribute:

- **Beginning January 1, 2026**, stores will only be allowed to distribute recycled carryout paper bags to customers for a minimum charge of ten cents (\$0.10) per bag at:
 - Checkout counters
 - Self-checkout kiosks
 - In-store pickup
 - Curbside delivery
 - Home delivery
- **Beginning January 1, 2028**, recycled paper bags distributed at stores must contain at least 50% postconsumer recycled materials.

California Public Resources Code section 42279 et. seq.

New Carryout Bag Requirements SB 1053

Local Ordinances Across California

Every store throughout California must comply with the requirements of the law, regardless of where the store is located. If the store is in a city or county that has its own bag ordinance, however, the store may need to comply with the local requirements as well.

[A list of cities and counties that have adopted bag ordinances is available.](#) This page may not contain every local jurisdiction in California with an ordinance that restricts or prohibits the use of certain bags. We recommend checking with your local city or county authority to verify whether your city or county has its own bag ban ordinance that is in effect.



SB 1053 Plastic Carryout Bag Ban Discussion

§ 5.48.010. Findings and intent.

- (A) It is the intent of the County of Santa Cruz, in enacting this chapter, to eliminate the common use of plastic single-use carryout bags, encourage the use of reusable bags by consumers and retailers, and to reduce the consumption of single-use bags in general.
- (B) The County of Santa Cruz has an obligation to protect the environment, the economy, and public health. The County of Santa Cruz has a 75 percent waste reduction goal, which is to be reached by waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. The County of Santa Cruz makes the following findings:

(1) In September 2011, the County of Santa Cruz passed its first bag reduction ordinance to eliminate certain types of plastic carryout bags in the unincorporated County and to encourage reusable bags to reduce waste and to protect the environment from plastic pollution.

(2) In November 2016, California voters approved Proposition 67, a statewide referendum to uphold Senate Bill 270 that banned single-use carryout bags. As a result, most grocery stores, retail stores with a pharmacy, convenience food stores, foodmarts, and liquor stores no longer provide single-use, lightweight, plastic carryout bags to their customers at the point of sale.

(3) Senate Bill 270 allowed the use of thicker film plastic carryout bags that were deemed reusable if they met specified standards. These thicker film plastic carryout bags were not generally reused by consumers and resulted in an increased amount of plastic and plastic waste.

(4) In (Month) 2019, the County of Santa Cruz updated its bag reduction ordinance to further implement state bag reduction mandates after Senate Bill 270 took effect.

It is the intent of this ordinance to do all of the following:

- (1) Support and reflect the will of Santa Cruz County residents and California voters to ban the distribution of film plastic carryout bags at stores.
- (2) Incentivize California consumers to bring their own reusable bag for carrying out store purchases, with stores encouraging and supporting this practice, which will reduce the costly and wasteful practice of relying on store-provided carryout bags.
- (3) Support sustainable and thriving communities and natural environments that are not burdened with pollution from plastic production nor littered with plastic waste.
- (4) Eliminate film plastic carryout bags from grocery store distribution and increase the recycling of paper carryout bags.
- (5) Reduce the proliferation of plastic pollution by eliminating the existing provisions of law that allows film plastic carryout bags to be distributed as reusable bags under the County's and the state's bag bans.



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SB 1053 Bag Ban Definition Discussion

(A) → "Carryout bags" means bags provided by retailers to customers at the point of sale to hold customers' purchases. "Carryout bags" does not include bags used to contain loose items prior to checkout, such as meat, produce, and bulk goods, and does not include prepackaged products.¶

(B) → "Film plastic or Plastic film" means thin continuous polymeric material that can be made from a variety of plastic resins. Common resins used include polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Generally, film plastic is made from thicknesses of .00025" (.06mm) up to .010" (.25mm).¶

(B)(C) → "Single-use plastic bag" or "single-use plastic carryout bag" means a single-use carryout bag of any size that is made from film plastic and provided at the point of sale to customers by a retail establishment that is not a recycled paper bag or a reusable bag. Single-use plastic bags include both compostable and noncompostable carryout bags.¶

(C)(D) → "Recycled single-use paper bag" or "single-use paper carryout bag" means a paper carryout bag provided by a retail establishment at the point of sale that is made from paper and is not a reusable bag that until January 1, 2028 must contain at least 40% postconsumer recycled paper. On and after January 1, 2028, a recycled paper bag must contain at least 50% postconsumer recycled paper.¶

(D)(E) → "Recyclable" means material that can be sorted, cleaned, and reconstituted using the County's available recycling collection programs for the purpose of using the altered form in the manufacture of a new product. Recycling does not include burning, incinerating, converting, or otherwise destroying solid waste.¶

(E)(F) → "Reusable bag" means any bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for at least 125 uses with a volume of at least 15 liters multiple reuse, and is either (a) made of cloth or other washable woven fabric, or (b) made of durable material that is at least four mils thick can be disinfected. A "reusable bag" may be made of recyclable plastic such as high density polyethylene (HDPE), low density polyethylene (LDPE), or polypropylene, but cannot be made from film plastic.¶

(F)(G) → "Retail establishment" or "retail store" means all sales outlets, stores, shops, restaurants, vehicles, or other places of business located within the unincorporated area of the County of Santa Cruz, which operate primarily to sell or convey goods, including "to go" food, directly to the ultimate consumer.¶

(G)(H) → "Exempted uses" means those point-of-purchase or delivery sales which have received an exemption under SCCC § 5.48.030 that allows the use of single-use bags.¶

(H)(I) → "Prepared food" means foods or beverages which are prepared on vendor's premises by cooking, chopping, slicing, mixing, freezing, or squeezing, and which require no further preparation to be consumed. "Prepared food" does not include any raw uncooked meat product or fruits and vegetables which are not chopped, squeezed, or mixed.¶



(I)(J) → "Take out food" means prepared food or beverages requiring no further preparation to be consumed, and which are generally purchased in order to be consumed off restaurant or retail food vendor's premises.¶

(J)(K) → "Director" or "Director of Public Works Community Development and Infrastructure" refers to the Director of the Santa Cruz County Department of Community Development and Infrastructure Public Works or their designee.¶ (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5116 § 1, 2012; Ord. 5138 § 1, 2012; Ord. 5186 § 1, 2014; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019)¶

§ 5.48.020. Ban on single-use plastic carryout bags—Store charge for single-use paper carryout bags and plastic reusable bags.¶

(A) → Retail establishments are prohibited from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale, except as permitted in this chapter.¶

(B) → Retail establishments shall charge a minimum \$0.25 fee for each single-use paper carryout bag provided to customers at the point of sale.¶

(C) → The charge imposed pursuant to this section shall not be applied to customers participating in the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the State Department of Social Services Food Stamp program, or other government-subsidized purchase programs for low-income residents.¶

(D) → Notwithstanding the charging requirements set forth in subsection (B) of this section, recycled single-use paper carryout bags may be distributed without charge by restaurants for the transportation of food or beverages that are provided to customers for consumption on the premises, for take-out, or by delivery.¶

(E) → The ban on single-use plastic bags and the charge on recycled single-use paper bags would not apply to compostable plastic or paper bags used to protect produce, meat, or otherwise used to protect items as they are put into a carryout bag at checkout. Other examples include: paper bags to protect bottles, compostable plastic bags around ice cream or other wet items, paper bags used to weigh candy, paper pharmacy bags or paper bags to protect greeting cards.¶

(F) → Retail establishments are strongly encouraged to make reusable bags available for sale to customers at a reasonable price. Reusable bags which meet the requirements of this chapter may be distributed without charge during limited-duration promotional events.¶

(G) → Retail establishments shall indicate on the customer transaction receipt the number of recycled paper carryout bags provided, and the total amount charged for those bags.¶

(H) → County of Santa Cruz contractors and special events promoters, and their vendors, shall not provide single-use plastic carryout bags to participants while performing under a County of Santa Cruz contract or permit.¶

(Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5116 § 2, 2012; Ord. 5138 § 2, 2012; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019; Ord. 5298 § 14, 2019)¶



§ 5.48.022. Recyclability requirements for single-use paper carryout bags.¶

Until January 1, 2028, recycled single-use paper carryout bags provided to customers shall contain a minimum of 40 percent post-consumer recycled paper fiber. On and after January 1, 2028, recycled paper carryout bags must contain 50 percent post-consumer recycled paper fiber. All recycled paper carryout bag must and be recyclable in the County of Santa Cruz's curbside recycling program.¶ (Ord. 5291 § 16, 2019)¶

§ 5.48.025. Implementation.¶

(A) → Sixty days before the ordinance codified in this chapter takes effect, the County of Santa Cruz shall post, mail or deliver a copy of it to retail establishments within the unincorporated area of the County of Santa Cruz.¶

(B) → The County of Santa Cruz will distribute to each store a reproducible placard designed to inform shoppers of the County of Santa Cruz regulations concerning carryout bags.¶ (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019)¶

§ 5.48.030. Exemptions allowing single-use bags.¶

(A) → The Director of Public Works Community Development and Infrastructure may exempt a retail establishment from the requirement set forth in SCCC § 5.48.020 for a one-year period upon the retail establishment showing, in writing, that this chapter would create an undue hardship or practical difficulty not generally applicable to other persons in similar circumstances. The decision to grant or deny an exemption shall be in writing, and the Director's decision shall be final.¶

(B) → An exemption application shall include all information necessary for the Director to make a decision, including but not limited to documentation showing factual support for the claimed exemption.¶

(C) → The Director may approve the exemption application in whole or in part, with or without conditions.¶ (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019)¶

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§ 5.48.035. Enforcement.

Enforcement of this chapter shall be as follows:

- (A) The Director of ~~Community Development and Infrastructure Public Works~~ shall have primary responsibility for enforcement of this chapter and shall have authority to issue citations for violation of this chapter. The Director is authorized to establish regulations or administrative procedures to ensure compliance with this chapter.
- (B) A person or entity violating or failing to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter shall be guilty of an infraction.
- (C) The County of Santa Cruz may seek legal, injunctive, or any other relief to enforce the provisions of this chapter and any regulation or administrative procedure authorized by it.
- (D) The remedies and penalties provided in this chapter are cumulative and not exclusive of one another.
- (E) The Director of ~~Community Development and Infrastructure Public Works~~ may inspect any retail establishment's premises to verify compliance with this chapter. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019)

§ 5.48.040. Violations.

Violations of this chapter shall be enforced as follows:

- (A) Violation of this chapter is hereby declared to be a public nuisance. Any violation described in this chapter shall be subject to abatement by the County of Santa Cruz, as well as any other remedies that may be permitted by law for public nuisances, and may be enforced by injunction, upon a showing of violation.
- (B) Upon a first violation by a retail establishment, the Director of ~~Community Development and Infrastructure Public Works~~ shall mail the establishment a written warning. The warning shall recite the violation and advise that future violations may result in fines.
- (C) Upon a second or subsequent violation by a retail establishment, the following penalties will apply:
 - (1) A fine not exceeding \$100.00 for the first violation that occurs 30 days or more after the first warning.
 - (2) A fine not exceeding \$200.00 for the second violation that occurs 60 days or more after the first warning.
 - (3) A fine not exceeding \$500.00 for the third violation that occurs 90 days or more after the first warning.
 - (4) A fine not exceeding \$500.00 for every 30-day period not in compliance, that occurs 90 days or more after the first warning.

- (D) Special event promoters and their vendors who violate this chapter in connection with commercial or non-commercial special events shall be assessed fines as follows:

- (1) A fine not exceeding \$200.00 for an event of one to 200 persons.
- (2) A fine not exceeding \$400.00 for an event of 201 to 400 persons.
- (3) A fine not exceeding \$600.00 for an event of 401 to 600 persons.
- (4) A fine not exceeding \$1,000 for an event of 601 or more persons.

- (E) Remedies and fines under this section are cumulative. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord. 5291 § 17, 2019)

§ 5.48.045. Severability.

If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this chapter, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the proscribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this chapter, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect. The County of Santa Cruz hereby declares that it would have passed this title, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases had been declared invalid or unconstitutional. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011)

~~**§ 5.48.050. Effective date.**~~

~~The ordinance codified in this chapter shall become effective six months after the date of final passage by the County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011)~~

§ 5.48.055. No conflict with Federal or State law.

Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted or applied so as to create any requirement, power, or duty in conflict with any Federal or State law. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011)

~~**§ 5.48.060. Preemption.**~~

~~The provisions of this chapter shall be null and void if State or Federal legislation, or administrative regulation, takes effect with the same or substantially similar provisions as contained in this chapter. The Board of Supervisors shall determine whether or not identical or substantially similar legislation has been enacted or regulations issued. (Ord. 5103 § 1, 2011; Ord.~~

Questions?
Thank you!



SB 1215 New Battery-Embedded Covered Electronic Waste Rules

Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force
December 4, 2025

Senate Bill 1215 – Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022



Subject of SB 1215: Battery and Battery-Embedded Product
Recycling and Fire Risk Reduction



- Requires producers to
 - Establish a stewardship program
 - Collect and recycle covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products.

Senate Bill 1215



SB 1215 signed into law in September 2022

- Expanded the definition of “covered electronic device” to include “covered battery-embedded product”
- Requires consumers to pay a disposal fee upon the purchase of a new or refurbished covered battery-embedded product
 - Beginning 1/1/2026 consumers pay disposal fee set by CalRecycle in collaboration with DTSC.
- Beginning 1/1/2026 requires manufacturers to label covered battery-embedded products with:
 - Manufacturer’s brand name and
 - Battery chemistry used in the product

Senate Bill 1215 Covered Battery-Embedded Products



What is a “Covered Battery-Embedded Product”?

- A product containing a battery from which the battery is not designed to be easily removed from the product by the user of the product with no more than commonly used household tools.

What “Battery-Embedded Products” aren’t covered?

- Medical devices (21 USC § 321(h)) Durable medical equipment (42 CFR § 414.202), and Devices to support/sustain human life (21 USC § 360c(a)(1)(B&C))
- Already covered electronic device (PRC § 42463(g)(1)(A))
- An energy storage system (PUC § 2835(a))
- Electronic nicotine delivery system (15 USC § 375(7))

Senate Bill 1215 New CEW Forms



CalRecycle issued three new forms that **must be completed** before collecting and recycling covered battery-embedded products

- CalRecycle 186C (Rev. 11/2025)- Application for Approval: Covered Electronic Waste (CEW) **Collector**
- CalRecycle 186D (Rev. 11/2025)- Application for Approval: Covered Electronic Waste (CEW) **Dual Entity** [Collector and Recycler]
- CalRecycle 186R (Rev. 11/2025)- Application for Approval: Covered Electronic Waste (CEW) **Recycler**

[Note that battery-embedded CEW is not eligible for combined recovery and recycling payments unless it is collected and cancelled after January 1, 2026, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 42478(b)(2)]

Questions?
Thank you!

