

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE



ZERO WASTE News

A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery Commercial 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



- 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

Help prevent accidental fires in trucks and facilities; dispose of batteries properly. It is illegal to put batteries in the trash or recycling.

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.



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.



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.

Businesses may contact Csr@ezontheearth.com or call (317) 887-5102 to have large quantities of bulbs processed www.ezontheearth.com.



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 or the County's website for updates at www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/RecyclingTrash.aspx

FEED PEOPLE, NOT LANDFILLS

For most food-related businesses in Santa Cruz County, food is the largest component of the waste stream accounting for 40-60% of total waste, much of which is edible. Meanwhile, according to the Second Harvest Food Bank website, in Santa Cruz County 1 in 4 children and 1 in 5 adults face the reality of hunger every day.



One component of the new law SB 1383 is to recover edible food and divert it to those in need. Please visit www.calrecycle.ca.gov to find out more about SB 1383, food rescue goals, and diversion and donation options.

Businesses that produce more than 2 yards of total solid waste must comply with AB 1826, Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling, which includes green waste and food scraps.

For more information or assistance in compliance with SB 1383 and AB 1826, please contact a Zero Waste Outreach Coordinator at (831) 454-2425 or email zerowaste@santacruzcounty.us.

STYROFOAM = MICRO-PLASTICS

Expanded Polystyrene Scraps (EPS) is made up of 98% air and 2% plastic. This is a threat to our ocean, environment, and communities. Like other types of plastic, it is not biodegradable and can easily travel through gutters, storm drains and by wind to reach the ocean. It breaks down into small micro-plastics.

In 2012, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance to restrict the sale of any polystyrene products in the unincorporated County including Styrofoam ice chests. In 2017, the Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Materials Ordinance was adopted for rules for restaurants to provide compostable or recyclable take out containers.

Grey Bears located at 2710 Chanticleer Ave. in Santa Cruz will recycle Styrofoam M-F 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Their machine uses heat to melt it into a rigid substance more cost-effective to transport. Material is transformed into many different downstream products, such as picture frames, furniture, surfboards and electrical components. Tina Forest, Resource Recovery Manager of Grey Bears, reminds folks that they accept ONLY the white hard #6 Styrofoam (usually found with appliances and electronics) and the cubed medicine coolers. No packing peanuts or foam.



THE ROAD TO ZERO WASTE

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

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
- ✓ 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 for answers!

GREEN

CALIFORNIA
GREEN BUSINESS
NETWORK
MONTEREY BAY AREA

EFFICIENCY-MINDED? BECOME A CERTIFIED GREEN BUSINESS

Save money, save the planet, and improve your business today! By certifying your business green you can experience greater energy, resource and water efficiency for long-term cost savings, attract new customers and employees. The California Green Business Network is also a resource for business-to-business referrals, business networking, and marketing. To get started, visit www.greenbusinessca.org or get personal assistance from Brooke Wright, Strategic Initiatives Manager at Environmental Innovations (415) 225-8807.



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

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

- 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

- 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-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.