

(Covers: Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Central San, Concord, Morgan Territory, Pacheco, and Uninc. Pleasant Hill)



Sustainability in Action

Sustainable Summer: Your Low-Waste Playbook for the Season



Summer brings longer days, outdoor adventures, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the season—but it also generates more waste. From single-use picnic supplies to travel-related emissions, our seasonal habits can take a toll on the planet. The good news? With a few thoughtful changes, we can reduce our impact while still making the most of summer's best moments.

Reduce Waste During Summer Activities

Summer outings don't have to mean overflowing trash bins. Pack reusable essentials like water bottles, utensils, and food containers to avoid single-use plastics during beach trips or hikes. Choose snacks with minimal packaging, or better yet, prepare homemade treats to cut down on waste entirely. When hitting the water, consider using reef-safe sunscreen to protect fragile marine ecosystems.

Travel Smart and Sustainably

With a few conscious choices, your summer adventures can leave lighter footprints. Consider trains or buses over flights for shorter trips, and if driving is necessary, carpool or rent a hybrid/electric vehicle to reduce emissions. Seek out local businesses and eco-conscious accommodations to support sustainable tourism wherever you roam.

Host Green Gatherings

Backyard BBQs and picnics can easily become greener. Use real plates, cups, and cloth napkins instead of single-use plastic, and set up clearly marked bins to separate trash, recycling, and organic waste. Encourage guests to bring their own containers for leftovers.



June Sustainability Events to Celebrate

This month, we're also highlighting four impactful sustainability observances that pair perfectly with summer.

World Environment Day
WorldEnvironmentDay.global

June 5—Join global efforts to combat pollution and restore ecosystems.

World Ocean Day
WorldOceanDay.org

June 8—Help protect marine life by reducing plastic use and supporting ocean cleanups.

World Refill Day
Refill.org.uk/world-refill-day

June 16—Commit to refilling reusable bottles and containers instead of buying disposables.

Global Car Recycling Day
GlobalCarRecyclingDay.com

June 20—Learn about recycling old vehicles and reducing auto waste.

From Scraps to Soil: Get Started with Home Composting!

Divert organic waste from your kitchen and yard by **starting a compost pile at home!** Composting can reduce your waste stream by up to 35%. This natural process transforms organic material into nutrient-rich soil, enhancing your garden and reducing landfill waste. Benefits include saving on garbage services, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving soil health. Free home composting workshops are available in Contra Costa County; for more details, visit CCCRecycle.org/194/Composting-and-Gardening-Programs

Creating a backyard compost diverts organic waste from landfills and enriches your soil. You can **build your own composting container** or purchase one. For backyard composting tips, visit StopWaste.org/at-home/home-and-community-gardening/all-about-compost/backyard-composting

No yard? No problem! If you live in an apartment or have limited space, you can still compost with a worm bin. A pound of red worms can process 65 pounds of food scraps in three months. Worm bins are designed for fruit and vegetable scraps only and are easy to set up and maintain. For detailed instructions, visit StopWaste.org/preventing-waste/residents/worm-composting

Landfill



Recycle



Empty, Clean, and Dry

Compost



BAGS: Compostable BPI (meets ASTM 6400 Standard); Paper Bags; No Bags



Recyclables should be loose (no bags) or placed in a clear bag only. A second recycle cart is available for an additional fee. Call Customer Service 925.685.4711 to request one. Batteries and CFLs can be placed separately in clear bags beside the recycle cart.



Organics should be loose (no bags) or in compostable or paper bags only. No plastic bags. A second green cart is available for an additional fee. Call Customer Service 925.685.4711 to request one.



SB 1383: Progress on California's Climate Fight

When food scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic materials end up in landfills, they break down and release methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. California Senate Bill (SB) 1383 aims to reduce methane emissions and fight climate change by reducing organic waste in landfills, with targets of 75% less organic waste sent to landfills and 20% of unsold, still-edible food sent to food recovery organizations by 2025. By reaching SB 1383's recycling and food rescue targets, 3 million cars' worth of climate pollution will be cut.

Since SB 1383 took effect in January 2022, over 90% of communities in California report having residential organic waste collection programs in place. 100% of communities have also expanded programs to send still-fresh, unsold food from large food businesses to Californians in need, with 217,042 tons of unsold food recovered by local programs in 2023. While significant progress has been made in cutting organic waste sent to landfills, we can all continue to do our part to reduce landfilled organic waste by ensuring all yard trimmings are placed in the green organics cart instead of the landfill cart.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Customer Service: 925.685.4711
RepublicServices.com/CCCCA



printed on
recycled paper



REPUBLIC
SERVICES

Translations available