

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



Sustainability in Action



BACK-TO-SCHOOL, SUSTAINABLY:

Smart Ways to Reduce Waste This Year

The back-to-school season often means a flurry of shopping and preparation—but it's also a great opportunity to adopt sustainable habits. With a little planning and creativity, families can reduce waste, save money, and teach kids the importance of caring for the planet. Read on for some simple ways to make this school year greener.

1. **Plan Ahead:** Before hitting the stores, make a detailed list of needed supplies to avoid impulse buys. Sticking to essentials prevents excess clutter and reduces unnecessary waste.
2. **Repurpose First:** Raid last year's backpack, desk, and pencil case before buying new items. Gently used notebooks, binders, and art supplies often get a second life with a little creativity.
3. **Choose Recycled:** When shopping is unavoidable, look for supplies made from recycled materials, like paper, pencils, or binders.
4. **Ditch Single-Use:** Pack drinks in a reusable water bottle or thermos instead of disposable juice boxes. If plastic milk containers or other recyclables are used, rinse and make sure they are clean and dry before recycling them properly.
5. **Pack Waste-Free Lunches:** Use reusable containers, cloth napkins, and stainless steel utensils for packed lunches. A durable lunchbox eliminates the need for disposable bags.
6. **Start or Join a School Recycling Program:** Team up with teachers or administrators to launch a recycling initiative if your school doesn't have one. Student involvement fosters long-term eco-awareness.
7. **Recycle Right:** Always empty, clean, and dry recyclables like yogurt cups or juice bottles before tossing them in the bin. Compost food scraps and food-soiled paper (like napkins and pizza boxes) in your organics container to comply with Senate Bill ("SB") 1383.



California Coastal Cleanup Day

September 19, 2026 from 9am - Noon
COASTALCLEANUPDAY.ORG

September 19: California Coastal Cleanup Day

Each year in September, Californians join forces on Coastal Cleanup Day to help remove trash from beaches and inland waterways across the state. Visit CoastalCleanupDay.org to learn more about the state's largest annual volunteer event and find local cleanups to participate in.

Labor Day Holiday Service

Wishing you a safe holiday! Please note that your Republic Services recycling and waste service will not be affected by the upcoming Labor Day holiday.

Our drivers will be servicing as normal on Monday, September 7, 2026. Please have your carts at the curb by 6 a.m. to ensure service.



Landfill



Recycle



Empty, Clean, and Dry

Compost



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

- No Food
- No Paper
- No Green Waste
- No Recyclable Material
- No Hazardous Waste



- No Liquids
- No Textiles
- No Carpet
- No Food
- No Green Waste
- No Hazardous Waste
- No Styrofoam®

Recyclables should be loose (no bags). A second recycle cart is available for an additional fee. Batteries and CFLs can be placed separately in clear bags beside the recycle cart.



- No Metal
- No Glass
- No Plastic
- No Hazardous Waste
- No Compostable Utensils or Cups
- No Pet Waste

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.



Not sure how to correctly dispose of an item? Visit Resource.Stopwaste.org to get answers and nearby reuse, repair, recycling, and safe disposal options.



Join the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge!

The Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge is an online platform that helps Contra Costa residents reduce their carbon footprint by providing tips, incentives, and resources. Collect points by taking actions that reduce your household's overall carbon footprint. Earn points to be eligible to receive prizes such as reusable utensils, straws, and bags!

Visit CleanerContraCosta.org to sign up, or for more information.

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



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