

County

SUMMER 2025

RJ-39176

(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

