



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Tim Goncharoff

831-454-2970

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

The County of Santa Cruz invites residents to help [Keep America Beautiful](#) by joining us in honoring Thursday, November 15 as “America Recycles Day.”

The event recognizes the economic, environmental and social benefits of recycling, and provides an educational platform to raise awareness about the value of reducing, reusing and recycling. Santa Cruz County has long been a leader in recycling and has won many national awards, including the 2018 “Outstanding Recycling Program” award from the National Recycling Coalition. Here are a few ways to help:

- Make sure all recyclables are clean and dry, and sort recycling carefully. Packages often come with plastic, paper and other packing material, and it’s tempting to toss the whole thing in the recycling bin. Materials like this are hard for sorting machines to separate. Help by separating all packaging materials.
- Avoid single-use plastic products. Reusable mugs, cutlery, straws and other products are widely available and inexpensive. Remember to say, “No straw, please,” when you’re dining out. Bring your own shopping bag to the store. Buy in bulk whenever you can. Try to stay away from products with too much plastic packaging. And keep in mind that shopping locally not only helps the economy and provides good local jobs, it avoids the massive amounts of packaging waste that come with products in the mail.
- If you still haul your own trash to the landfill, consider signing up for curbside service with GreenWaste Recovery. It’s cheaper, more convenient and will ensure that your recyclables have the best chance of finding their way to market.
- Time to get rid of that old sofa, mattress or other bulky item? GreenWaste subscribers can call up to three times per year for free pickup of large item. Call (831) 426-2711 or email customerservice@greenwaste.com.
- Many hard-to-recycle items can be taken back to the store. Paint, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, used motor oil and old drugs and sharps can be dropped off for free at participating locations.
- Keep food waste out of the trash by learning to compost at home. Sign up for a free compost workshop at (831) 824-6484 or online at <http://goo.gl/Fw6BaK>.