

ZERO WASTE News

A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery
Commercial Customers

Santa Cruz County
GreenWaste Recovery

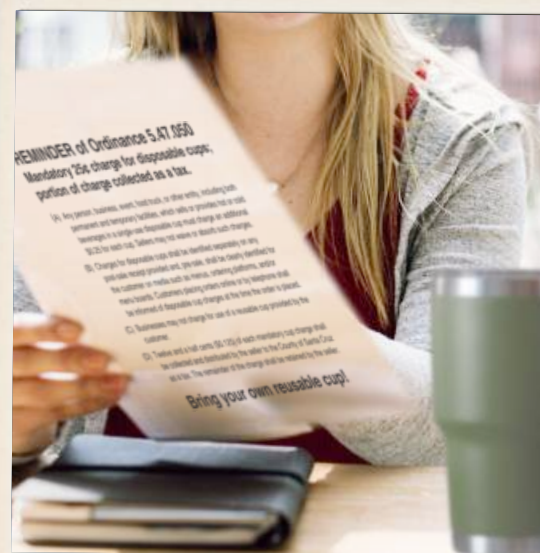
Fall 2025

25¢ CUP CHARGE REMINDER

We hope you are starting to save on your cup inventory!

- Do you need a new cup charge poster for your window or register?
- Do you have the 25-cent charge clearly identified on your menus and ordering platforms?
- Do you inform your customers online and on the phone of the 25-cent cup charge?
- Has your waste gone down because people are bringing their own reusable cups?
- Are you spending less on single-use cups and selling branded reusable cups instead?
- Are your cups compostable and BPI-Certified to prevent PFAS in cup liners?

Please email zerowaste@santacruzcounty.us or call (831) 454-2160 to share your story.



Post the cup charge on your menu and remind customers to bring their reusable cup.

HOW TO RECYCLE HOLIDAY PACKAGING

The holidays bring joy – and lots of packaging! Here's a quick guide to help you sort it right:



Wrapping Paper

Recyclable only if it's plain, non-metallic, and non-glittery. When in doubt, leave it out of recycling and put in the trash, or save for reuse. Opt for reusable and recyclable wrapping.



Bubble Wrap & Plastic Film

Clear bubble wrap and stretchy film plastic can be recycled when bagged together inside a clear plastic bag, knotted shut.



Cardboard Boxes

Flatten and place cardboard boxes in your recycling bin. Remove all packing materials, and be sure that they fit completely inside the blue bin with the lid closed.



Styrofoam (Polystyrene) Blocks and Peanuts

Not accepted in curbside recycling carts. Put them into the trash, or ask your local shipping store if they take them for reuse/recycling.



DOES STATE LAW REQUIRE A FOOD DONATION CONTRACT FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

SB 1383 requires some food businesses to participate in edible food recovery to feed hungry people and keep food out of the landfill. Tier-One and Tier-Two food generators are mandatory food donors.

Tier-One Donors

- Supermarkets gross annual sales $\geq$ \$2 million
- Grocery stores with facilities $\geq$ 10,000 sq. ft.
- Food distributors
- Food service providers
- Wholesale food vendors

Tier-Two Donors

- Restaurants with facilities $\geq$ 5,000 sq. ft. or 250+ seats
- Hotels with food facilities and 200+ rooms
- Health facilities with food facilities and 100+ beds
- Large venues and events
- State agency cafeterias with facilities $\geq$ 5,000 sq. ft. or 250+ seats
- Local education agencies w/ on-site food facility
- Non-local entities



Tier-One and Tier-Two food generators must:

- Donate the maximum amount of edible food to a food recovery organization (food bank, food pantry, soup kitchen) that would otherwise be disposed to a landfill,
- Maintain records of food donations on site, and
- Sign a written food donation contract with a food recovery organization.

To find out how to become compliant and stop wasting good food in the compost bin or cart, we have an app for that at no cost to you!

If you are a place of worship or business who feeds others, we have an app for you, too. You will be able to collect edible food that others may post on the Careit App. What a gift to the community!

Call Mary Ann LoBalbo at (831) 431-0114 or email maryann.lobalbo@santacruzcountycal.gov

Please leave your name, phone number, location, and why you are calling. Together we can feed our neighbors and build the infrastructure and capacity to distribute food safely.

HOLIDAY TREE PICKUP

Please call GreenWaste Customer Service at **831-426-2711** to schedule a curbside tree pickup. Please remove tinsel, decoration and stand. No artificial or flocked (fake snow) trees. Flocked trees are trash.

HOLIDAY PICKUP SCHEDULE

GreenWaste does not collect on Thanksgiving Day (Nov 27th), Christmas Day (Dec 25th), and New Year's Day (Jan 1st). If your regular collection day falls on or after these holidays, your collection will be delayed by one day. Please place your carts out for service by 6 AM. For more information, please contact GreenWaste customer service at (831) 426-2711.



NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24	25	26	27	28	29



DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
21	22	23	24	25	26	27



JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

