

ZERO WASTE News

A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery
Single-Family Customers

Santa Cruz County
GreenWaste Recovery

Fall 2025



FREE COMPOSTING CLASSES

Lighten the load in your green organics cart by composting or feeding your worms at home.

Upon completion of the workshop, GreenWaste Recovery customers in the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County are offered a free backyard composting bin or worm bin. Take a friend with you! Sign up today at (831) 824-6484 or online at goo.gl/Fw6BaK.

Find the schedule for free
Basic and Advanced Composting
workshops.



WINTER COMPOSTING TIPS

Putting plant and food scraps into your green cart helps divert waste from the landfill, and reduces climate impacts. Organic matter collected in your green cart is composted into nutrient-rich soil amendment that benefits our environment year-round! Yard waste like leaves and small branches are great additions to your green cart, and layering them with food scraps helps control odors. Seasonal items to put into the green cart include undecorated pumpkins and their seeds, Thanksgiving table scraps, and holiday greens (without flocking/fake snow or decorations).



Free Kitchen Pails Available

Provided by GreenWaste for residents in Unincorporated Santa Cruz County.

Using a countertop pail or sealed container to store food scraps until you can take them outside makes it easy to collect food scraps, while keeping your kitchen tidy. GreenWaste offers free kitchen pails to help you collect food scraps before placing them in your green cart.

Use your pail for:

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Eggshells
- Bones and cooked meat
- Plate scrapings
- And more!

Please call customer service 831-426-2711 or visit greenwaste.com/santa-cruz-county to request your pail (one per household).



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.



HOW WE GREEN

Sorting matters. Whether you're at home, work, school or play, using a 3-bin sorting station correctly ensures that the maximum resources are recovered and diverted from the landfill. In our community, plant and food materials collected in your green bin are used to create compost that helps local farmers grow our food.



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

RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE

From January 5-23, 2026, GreenWaste will collect natural holiday trees on your normal collection day. Follow these steps to ensure your natural tree is composted:

- Cut your natural tree into segments no more than 4 feet long.
- Remove all decorations, ornaments, tinsel, and non-wooden stands.
- Place your tree segments curbside next to your green organics container the night before your collection day (do not bag or cover).
- Flocked (fake snow) and artificial trees are not accepted and must be placed in your garbage cart.

