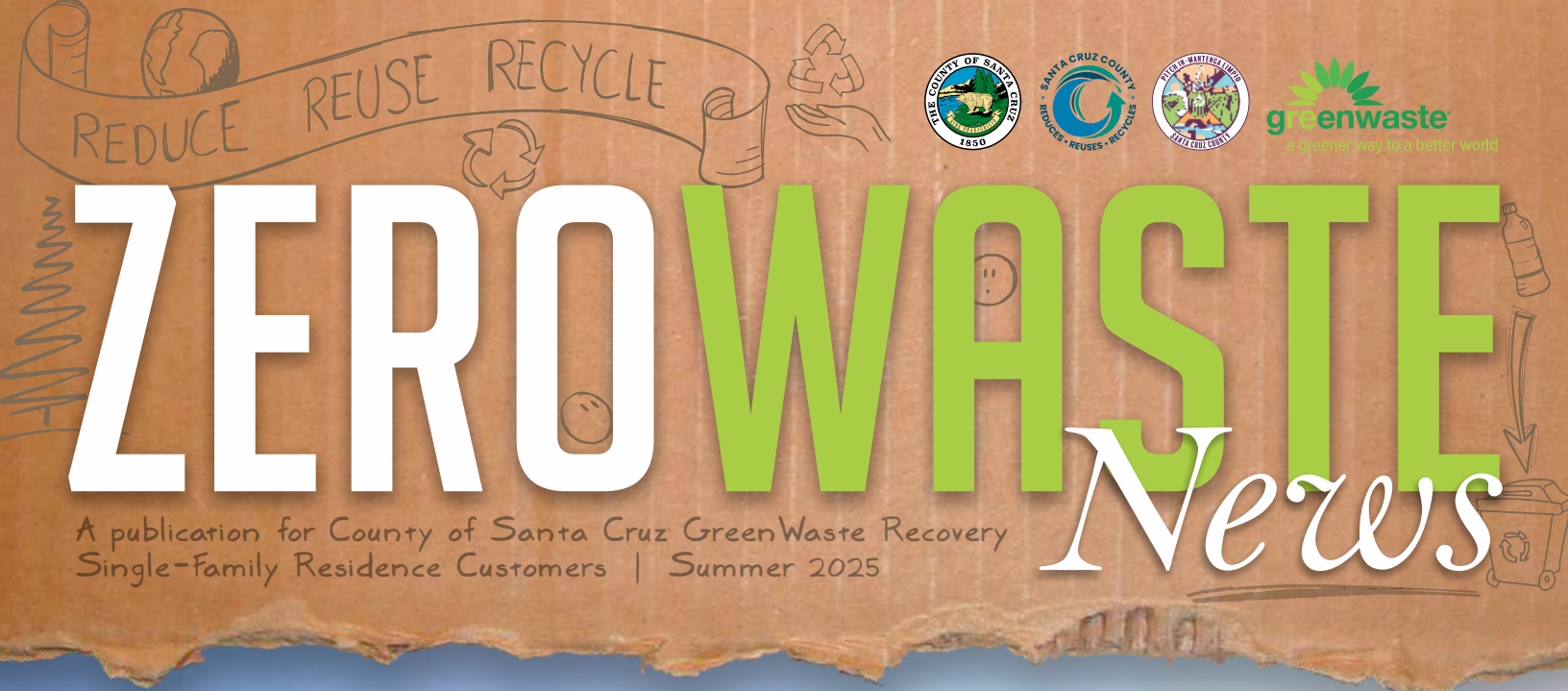




A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery
Single-Family Residence Customers | Summer 2025

ILLEGAL DUMPING NOW A HIGHER PRICE TO PAY

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ILLEGAL DUMPING - NOW A HIGHER PRICE TO PAY

Illegal dumping is a persistent problem that affects our quality of life. Increased fines are the latest measure the County has taken to make Santa Cruz County the cleanest in California.

In June, the Board of Supervisors voted to raise fines for illegal dumping to \$2,500 for a first offense, \$5,000 for a second, and \$10,000 for a third, bringing Santa Cruz County fines in line with neighboring counties. The former fines were \$100, \$200, and \$500 respectively, providing little deterrence for unpermitted haulers or residents to improperly dispose of waste.

GreenWaste Recovery offers pick-up services to help residents properly dispose of bulky items. Households in unincorporated Santa Cruz County are eligible for three (3) bulky item pickups and four (4) extra cart set-outs per year at no additional cost, making it easier to properly dispose of large or excess waste. Contact 831.426.2711 to schedule a pick-up.

Recycle Your Mattress the Right Way

Mattresses are not made to be used forever, but disposing of them may seem problematic. Recycling them is the solution. The fabric, wood, steel and foam that makes up a mattress can be reclaimed or recycled, and that's good news for recyclers. Rather than paying landfill disposal fees, residents can bring used or old mattresses to the Ben Lomond Transfer Station or Buena Vista Landfill and recycle up to 15 per household per trip for free.

For mattresses coming from a retailer or business, the cost is \$7 each with a limit of 15 per trip.

TIP: When buying a new mattress, ask the retailer if they will take away your old one for free when they deliver. They can recycle it for you!



IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDER

PREVENT BATTERY FIRES

Never throw batteries in the trash!

Batteries—especially lithium-ion types found in many electronics—can spark dangerous fires when improperly disposed of, including in garbage or recycling trucks.

Devices that use lithium-ion batteries include:

- Cell phones
- Electronic toys
- Laptops and tablets
- Electric toothbrushes
- E-bikes and scooters
- Cameras

Always consider how you'll safely dispose of a device before you buy it.

Safe Disposal Options:

- Visit www.call2recycle.org to find local drop-off locations for rechargeable and items with embedded batteries (like laptops or cell phones).
- Use your local Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program for proper disposal.

Curbside Battery Recycling for GreenWaste Recovery Customers:

- Place common household batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 6V, and 9V) in a clear zip-lock bag.
- Tape the terminals of 6V and 9V batteries to prevent sparking.
- Set the bag on top of your blue recycling cart—not inside.



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR – PUT YOUR CARTS AWAY

A friendly reminder that trash/recycling/organics carts can only be at the curb 24 hours before pick up and 24 hours after being picked up. These same rules apply to neighborhood clusters of carts. Please do your best to put your carts away to keep your neighborhood clean.

HELP CUT WASTE AND COSTS

Your Everyday Choices Make a Difference!

Between 2013 and 2023 the rate of waste generation in the unincorporated County has gone up by 40%. Think before you shop: choose durable items instead of disposables, buy needed items second hand, sell or donate good used items instead of throwing them away!





DO YOUR PART WHEN USING THE BLUE RECYCLING CART

- **No chip bags, candy wrappers, or any crinkly-sounding plastic:** These items aren't recyclable and are contaminants when placed in the blue recycling cart.
- **Bag your bags:** Gather all clean, stretchy, non-crinkly plastic and put them into one bag, tie a knot in the bag, and place the "bag of bags" into the blue recycling cart.
- **Keep it clean and loose:** Don't bag your recyclables. Recyclables should be empty and dry and go straight into the blue recycling cart (the only exceptions are your bag of plastic bags and bagged shredded paper).

Green organics cart reminder

Do not use any plastic bags—including certified compostable ones—in your organics bin. Compostable bags are still plastic and slow down the natural decomposition process of organic waste.



CRV BEVERAGE CONTAINER REDEMPTION

Starting July 1, 2025, California Redemption Value (CRV) cash refunds will no longer be available at the Ben Lomond Transfer Station. After July 1, the following changes will take place:

- Ben Lomond Transfer Station will accept CRV containers for recycling;
- It will not pay CRV redemption fees.

As of January 1, 2025

Beverage retailers that are at least 5,000 square feet in size and generate \$1.5 million or more in annual revenue are required by state law to offer CRV redemption services. All qualifying CRV beverage retailers are required to:

- Join a dealer cooperative, or
- Offer in-store redemption for CRV containers.

This is part of California's effort to make recycling more accessible and effective, and is part of a statewide update to California's beverage container recycling program that aims to shift the responsibility for CRV redemptions to retailers—such as grocery and convenience stores.



3-CART CLUES – SIMPLE REMINDERS ABOUT YOUR SERVICE

- **Carboard too big for the cart?** If cardboard does not fit in cart, cut it up and put in cart, or bundle with string, twine or tape no more than 3 feet by 3 feet and lean against recycle blue cart.
- **Recycling reminder:** Keep it clean and loose! Recyclables should go straight into the blue bin, not garbage bags (except for bagged plastic bags).
- **Organics Tip:** No bags in the green organics cart. Sprinkle baking soda on the bottom and some leaves to prevent food waste from sticking to the bottom.
- **What about the pizza box? Greasy?** Trash it. Clean parts? Tear them off and recycle those pieces.
- **Need a kitchen organics bucket?** Request your free countertop organics bucket from GreenWaste Recovery at 831-426-2711.



THE FUTURE OF RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE IN UNINCORPORATED SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Big Changes Ahead

The Buena Vista Landfill is nearing capacity. Once the landfill reaches full capacity, the County will begin transporting all waste from the unincorporated areas to ReGen Monterey in Marina. We'll share more updates on this project soon.

The County will still accept waste, recycling, and organics at the Buena Vista Landfill and the Ben Lomond Transfer Station for preprocessing. However, with less control over transport and disposal, costs are expected to increase, not only due to inflation but also because of the growing scarcity of landfill space.

LANDFILL RATES	2024	2025	2026
Minimum Disposal Fee	\$27	\$29	\$30.50
Per Ton	\$88	\$95.50	\$102.50

THIS GOES IN THE TRASH

Dog poop bags do not belong in the green organics cart. Even if the bag says it's compostable, the content is not! Animal feces contaminates the compost made in our organic process. Put animal waste in the grey trash cart.



JOIN US!

California Coastal Cleanup Day

Saturday, September 20, 2025

For more info go to
www.saveourshores.org



Printed on 55% recycled 30% post-consumer waste paper processed chlorine-free, using soy-based inks.

County of Santa Cruz Community Development & Infrastructure

701 Ocean Street, Room 410

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 454-2160

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RECYCLING RESOURCES



Recycle Information Line 831-454-2333

- What and where to recycle (recorded messages)

Curbside Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection 800-665-2209

(operated by GreenWaste Recovery)
www.greenwaste.com/santa-cruz-county

- Begin new service
- Report missed recycling or trash service
- Request delivery or removal of carts
- Obtain oil recycling jugs



County Community Development & Infrastructure. 831-454-2160

www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org

- Apartments and business recycling inquiries
- Complaints, compliments or suggestions
- Report roadside trash 831-477-3999

Download and use the "My Santa Cruz County" free mobile app

Household Hazardous Waste 831-454-2606

(recorded messages)

- Schedule for free disposal
- Non-hazardous alternatives

Contact Zero Waste Outreach Team 831 454-2160

or ZeroWaste@santacruzcounty.us

- Questions
- Volunteer as a Zero Waste champion



Composting Resources www.compostsantacruzcounty.org

Buena Vista Landfill & Recycling Center 831-454-5153

- Recorded information 831-454-2430

1231 Buena Vista Drive, Watsonville 95076

Open: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM;

Wed 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM

HHW Facility - Open: Wed 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM;

Fri and Sat 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Ben Lomond Transfer Station & Recycling Center 831-336-3951

- Recorded information 831-454-2430

9835 Newell Creek Road, Ben Lomond 95005

Open: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM;

Wed 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM

HHW Facility - Open Thursdays 7:30-3:30

California Grey Bears Recycling Centers 831-479-1055 ext. 235

Mid County, 2710 Chanticleer Avenue, Santa Cruz 95065

Open: 7:30-3:45 daily

Buena Vista Landfill -

Open: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM;

Wed 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Ben Lomond Transfer Station -

Open: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM;

Wed 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM

City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility & Recycling Center 831-420-6270

- Open to unincorporated county residents in Davenport and Bonny Doon only

605 Dimeo Lane, Santa Cruz 95060

Open: Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30

HHW Facility - Open: Saturdays 7:30-3:30



Para información en español sobre el reciclaje en las áreas no incorporadas del condado de Santa Cruz, favor de llamar al (800) 665-2209.