

FROM THE EDITOR

April 1st marks the beginning of Earth Month, and this year's theme is "Restore Our Earth."

Spring is the perfect time for restoration and renewal—for ourselves and our planet. It's also traditionally a time to deep clean our homes and reorganize our garages and closets. In this issue of Journeys, you'll find lots of ways to prioritize the natural environment as you get a fresh start this season!

Tip: While we're on the topic of cleaning, remember to keep your recycling clean too! That means all containers must be empty, clean and dry before you put them in your recycling cart. Remember, plastic bags go in the garbage. Questions? Check the new recycling guide you received recently in the mail, or go to our website RecologySanBenito.com. If you need another guide, give us a call!

Shana McCracken

Shana McCracken
Editor and Waste Zero Manager

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR RECOLOGY BILL?

We offer low-income rates to eligible residents. To qualify you must already be enrolled in either PG&E's CARE or AT&T's Lifeline program. To learn more, call our Customer Service Department.



This little guy knew a ton about recycling! Our youngest customers inspire us every day.

Now is a great time to practice the 4Rs of Zero Waste:

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE AND ROT!

Stop into your local thrift store and donate items you've gathered while spring cleaning. Here in San Benito County, we have a bunch of great local thrift stores. Remember to call ahead to make sure they are open and/or accepting donations.

1. Food Bank Thrift Shop: (831) 637-0340, 1133 San Felipe Road, Hollister, CA
2. Goodwill of Silicon Valley: (831) 630-5780, 1703 Airline Highway, Hollister, CA
3. Hazel's Thrift Shop: (831) 638-0526, 898 San Benito Street, Hollister, CA
4. Hope Services: (831) 638-6852, 650 San Benito Street, Hollister, CA
5. Sacred Heart Thrift: (831) 637-7998, 680 College Street, Hollister, CA
6. TTK Investments: (831) 623-9215, 101 The Alameda, San Juan Bautista, CA

CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM!

Se Habla Español

Questions about your collection service? Contact our team by calling **831.636.7500**, Monday through Friday, 8am–5pm. Messages left after hours will be returned the next business day. You may also email us at customerservice055@recology.com or visit our website at www.RecologySanBenito.com.



Recology San Benito County
1351 Pacheco Pass Hwy
Gilroy, CA 95020

@RecologySanBenito



Miss Ana really gets into character during Storytime!

Zero Waste got a whole lot cuter when Recology and SBCIWM partnered with the San Benito County Free Library to produce an environmentally themed, bilingual Storytime session.

On January 28th our youth outreach team joined Miss Ana (a.k.a. Library Technician/Community Liaison, Adriana Garcia) to read recycling-themed stories and answer questions about recycling during the library's weekly live cast on Facebook.

You can watch past Storytimes by going to the San Benito County Free Library's Facebook page.

A CLEAN & GREEN APPROACH TO HOUSEHOLD CHORES

It's amazing how much spring cleaning you can accomplish using only baking soda, white vinegar and water. Here are a few household chores that require just those three ingredients... plus a little elbow grease!

FRESHEN CARPETS

Sprinkle baking soda liberally on rug or carpet. Let sit for a few hours, then vacuum.

GET RID OF MILDEW

Spray a two-to-one solution of water-to-vinegar on grout and other troublesome areas in the shower or bath.

SCRUB THE TOILET

Mix ¼ cup baking soda and 1 cup vinegar. Pour into bowl and let stand for 10 minutes. Scrub with brush and rinse.

For more expert-tested, non-toxic cleaning recipes, go to GoodHouseKeeping.com and search "homemade cleaners."

RENEW FOOD STORAGE CONTAINERS

Remove food stains and odors from frequently used containers by making a solution of warm water and baking soda and soaking overnight.

CLEAN THE OVEN

Make a thick paste of ¾ cup baking soda, ¼ cup salt and ¼ cup warm water. Spread inside your oven with a sponge or rag. Let sit overnight.

Remove with a plastic spatula and wipe clean.



SCHEDULE YOUR FREE BULKY ITEM PICK-UP TODAY!

➔ Schedule at **831.636.7500**

Residents can request a free Bulky Item Curbside Collection two times per year. Eligible items include:

- Two bulky items such as an appliances or furniture, or one refrigerator or freezer
- Two cubic yards (equal to 12, 32-gallon clear plastic bags or boxes) of reusable items
- Five electronic items

SAVE THE DATES!

Featuring free electronic waste drop-off, secure document shredding and compost pick up!

Saturday, April 17, 9am-1pm

Veterans Memorial Park, 1221 Memorial Drive, Hollister, CA

Saturday, April 24, 9am-1pm

San Juan School 100 Nyland Drive, San Juan Bautista, CA

FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT

Dispose of unwanted household hazardous waste.

Saturday, April 17, 9am-12pm

John Smith Landfill, 2650 John Smith Rd., Hollister, CA

RX TAKE-BACK EVENT

Dispose of unused or expired prescription or over-the-counter medications anonymously.

Saturday, April 24, 10am-2pm

Target parking lot, 1790 Airline Hwy., Hollister, CA

Kids' Corner Scavenger Hunt!

How many of these items can you find in your home? Which ones can you reduce, reuse, recycle or let rot?

REDUCE	REUSE	RECYCLE	ROT
Cloth shopping bag	Metal straw	Plastic water bottle	Banana peel
Reusable cup or water bottle	Metal water bottle	Piece of paper	Paper napkin
Bulk food (no plastic)	Wooden utensils	Metal can	Half-eaten popsicle
Refillable soap pump	Silicon sandwich bag	Paper bag	Greasy pizza box

Compost: Too Good to Waste

Reducing organic waste to landfill is one of the most important actions we, as individual citizens, can take for our environment. Here's why:

- In a modern landfill organic material like yard trimmings and food scraps breaks down slowly and generates methane, a very powerful greenhouse gas that drives climate change.
- Sending organic material to a compost facility—or composting it yourself at home—results in a rich soil amendment. Compost actually absorbs CO₂ (another greenhouse gas) instead of generating methane. That's a win-win for planet Earth!
- A state law called SB 1383 is now in effect. It requires everyone to reduce organic material going to landfill, with the goal of eliminating it one day!



WHAT YOU CAN DO



Curbside Program

Make the most of your curbside service! Put food scraps and food-soiled paper, as well as yard trimmings, in your green Organics cart. This material goes to Recology's large-scale compost facility, where it is processed and made into high-quality compost for use by farmers, landscapers, public agencies and residents. For more information about how to use your green cart fully and properly, please see your 2021 Recycling Guide* or go to recologysanbenito.com for more information about acceptable and non-acceptable items.

If you're ready, you can take the additional step of composting in your backyard. Live in an apartment? You can still compost on your balcony or patio.

**If you didn't receive a guide in the mail or need another for any reason, please call us at 831.636.7500. We'll be happy to send one to you! You can also download the guide at recologysanbenito.com*

Backyard Composting

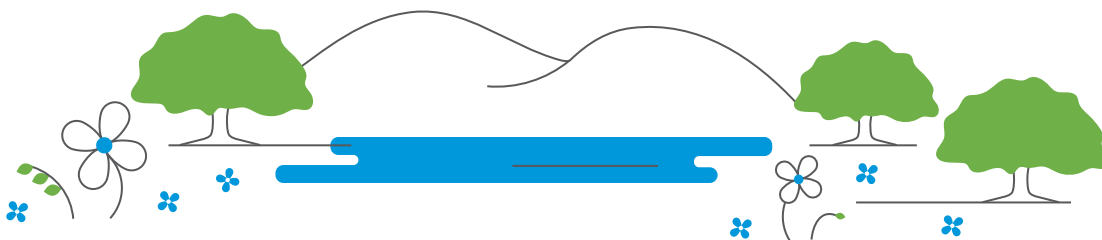
Take a virtual Compost Basics class, taught by an expert, through UCCE Santa Clara. Look up "Santa Clara Community Composting Workshops" to find a complete schedule. The classes are offered frequently and they're FREE! The next one will take place on **Saturday, April 10th** from 10AM-noon. Submit proof of attendance to ljensema@recology.com or call 408-858-0724 and receive a free compost bin—a \$78 value!

Worm Composting

Worm bin or "vermicomposting" is a method of making compost that uses worms as helpers. It's great for residents with smaller spaces. Vermicomposting involves layering food scraps, shredded paper and worms in a closed but ventilated container. (Red Wigglers are great and easy to find at most bait and tackle shops.) The resulting "castings" are as nutrient-rich as any compost gets! Your plants will thank you by growing tall and beautiful.

More Resources: linktr.ee/recologysbc

Happy Composting!



¿Porque desechar? ¡Mejor compostar!



Reduciendo el desecho orgánico en el vertedero es una de las acciones mas importantes que nosotros como ciudadanos individuales podemos hacer para nuestro medio ambiente. He aquí el por qué:

- En un vertedero moderno, material orgánico como recortes de jardín y restos de comida se descomponen lentamente y generan metano, un gas de efecto invernadero muy poderoso que impulsa el cambio climático.
- Mandando material orgánico a un centro de compostaje – o haciendo el proceso de compostaje en su casa- resulta en una enmienda de suelo (fertilizante). El abono absorbe el dióxido de carbono (otro gas de efecto invernadero) en vez de generar metano. Esto es una ganancia para el planeta Tierra.
- Una ley estatal nombrada SB 1383 ya esta en efecto. ¡Requiere que todos reduzcan el material orgánico que acaba en el vertedero, con la meta de eliminarlo un día!

LO QUE USTED PUEDE HACER



Programa de la acera

Aproveche su servicio de la acera. Coloque sus restos de comida y papeles sucios de comida, incluso sus recortes de jardín en su contenedor verde de Orgánicos. Este material acaba en el centro de compostaje de gran escala de Recology, donde será procesado y convertido en abono de alta calidad para ser usado por granjeros, paisajistas, agencias públicas, y residentes.

Para mas información en como usar su contenedor verde completa y apropiadamente, por favor vea su guía de Reciclaje de 2021 o visite el sitio web recologysanbenito.com para más información.

Si esta listo, puede proceder con el paso adicional de hacer el compostaje en su patio trasero. ¿Vive en un apartamento? Aun puede hacer el compostaje en su balcón o patio.

**Sino recibió una guía en el correo o necesita otra por alguna razón, por favor llámenos al 831.636.7500. Con mucho gusto le mandaremos otra. También puede bajar la guía en la pagina web recologysanbenito.com.*

Compostaje de lombrices

Compostaje de lombrices o "vermicompostaje" es un método de crear abono con la ayuda de lombrices. El vermicompostaje consiste en poner los restos de comida, papel triturado, y lombrices en capas adentro de un contenedor cerrado, pero con ventilación. (La lombriz roja californiana es genial y fácil de conseguir en muchas tiendas de cebos y aparejos). Los resultados son unas fundiciones de lombriz igual de nutritivas como un abono. ¡Sus plantas se lo agradecerán y crecerán altas y hermosas!

Recursos adicionales:

Guía de paso a paso del compostaje de Recology disponible en la página web How_to_Compost.pdf (recology.com)

Participe en una clase virtual en español aquí: <https://tinyurl.com/ve46ctzv>

Envíe una prueba de haber participado en la clase virtual a docampo@recology.com o llame al (408) 713-8130 y reciba un contenedor de abono—gratis. ¡Tiene un valor de \$78!

¡Disfruten el proceso de compostaje!

