

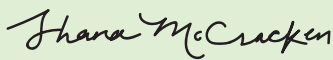


FROM THE EDITOR

The winter holidays are full of wonderful things: sugar cookies, evergreen wreaths and hot spiced cider.

At the risk of being a grinch, it's also important to note that the waste from these "organic" items will also last long into the future—unless we make the 4Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle and rot) part of our holiday traditions. In this issue of Journey to Zero Waste, you'll find lots of great tips, ideas and program information to help you do just that!

Zero Wastingly,



Shana McCracken
Editor and Waste Zero Manager

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: WRASBC

By now you've seen the warnings: We are in a Stage II Water Emergency here in San Benito County. That means we need to reduce our water use by at least 25% to meet basic needs. "Runoff from the Sierras was 10% of normal last year," laments Shawn Novack, Water Conservation Program Manager for the Water Resources Association of San Benito County (WRASBC). Learn more at WRASBC.org/Turf-Removal-Program.



One very impactful action residents can take is to replace their lawns with native and other drought-tolerant plantings. That's because grass turf uses roughly 62,000 gallons per square foot per year!

When undertaking this kind of re-landscaping project, adding compost to the soil is essential. Compost not only adds nutrients to the soil but also helps it retain moisture. **Pick up free compost at one of our upcoming Environmental Days!** See below for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

RECYCLE DAY

Oct. 1, 9 AM – 1 PM
Veterans Memorial Park
Drop off mattresses, batteries, and paint

ENVIRONMENTAL DAYS

Oct. 8, 9 AM – 1 PM
Veterans Park, 1221 Memorial Dr., Hollister

Oct. 15, 9 AM – 1 PM
San Juan School, 100 Nyland Dr., San Juan Bautista

Learn more at Bit.ly/3ToRdHU

HHW EVENTS

Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17
John Smith Rd. Landfill, Hollister
Learn more at Cosb.us/HHW

National Drug & Sharps Take-back Day

Oct. 29
Learn more at Cosb.us/MedicalWaste

Light Bulb Recycling

Drop off at True Value Hardware, 1260 Fourth St., Hollister
Fluorescent and compact fluorescent bulbs

QUARTERLY BULKY ITEM RECYCLING/DISPOSAL

Dec. 10th & 11th
John Smith Rd. Landfill, Hollister

Learn more at [831.636.4110](tel:831.636.4110) or Bit.ly/3KdTuBA



CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM!

Se habla español

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Messages left after hours returned next business day

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TREE RECYCLING

Remember! Your Christmas tree is compostable! Instead of putting them in your landfill cart, take advantage of one of these great programs:

1. Recology's curbside collection will take place from December 26th to January 31st. Please make sure your tree is cut to lengths of no more than 3 feet before setting out.
2. The Boy Scouts of Hollister will do their annual tree collection program on Saturday December 31st and Saturday January 7th at Veteran's Memorial Park in Hollister.

Flocked trees (sprayed with artificial snow) are not accepted. Remove all tinsel, ornaments, and tree stands before setting out for collection.



PERSIMMON PUDDING

Edible gifts are a great alternative to things. Have persimmons that would otherwise go to waste? Make this delicious persimmon pudding and give it to friends and family!

INGREDIENTS

2 Tbsp Butter	1 Cup Flour	¼ Tsp Ground Cinnamon	1 Cup Mashed Ripe Persimmon Pulp (about 3 medium persimmons)
1 Cup Sugar	2 Tbsp Baking Soda	½ Cup Milk	
1 Large Egg	½ Tsp Salt		

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until crumbly, about 2 minutes. Add egg; beat well. Combine the flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon; add to the creamed mixture alternately with milk. Stir in persimmon pulp.

Pour into a loaf pan or six well-greased 8-oz. custard cups or ramekins. Bake at 325 degrees F for 50 minutes or until a toothpick comes out cleanly.

To make your pudding even richer, top it with a butter sauce.

INGREDIENTS

1 Cup Sugar	1 Tbsp Butter	1-1½ Tsp Vanilla Extract
½ Cup Evaporated Milk	Dash Salt	

DIRECTIONS

In a small saucepan, combine the sugar, evaporated milk, butter and salt. Cook and stir over medium heat for 3-5 minutes or until heated through. Remove from heat, stir in vanilla, drizzle over pudding.

Kid's Corner!



DIY BIRD FEEDER

Get crafty and give the birds some holiday love at the same time. Below are the quick and easy steps for making a birdfeeder from things you probably already have in your house.

1. Gather toilet paper or paper towel rolls, birdseed, heavy string or twine, and a nut butter such as almond or peanut butter. *Check to be sure peanut butter does not contain Xylitol, which is toxic to wildlife.*
2. Spread nut butter on the paper roll until it is completely covered.
3. Roll in bird seed on a plate or piece of waxed paper until you no longer see any peanut butter.
4. Thread a piece of twine through the roll and knot at the top. Be sure to cut the twine long enough so it can hang from a branch.
5. Hang your bird feeder at least six feet from the ground.

Bonus Points! Count how many different types of birds come to feed from your feeder.