

# **CONTACT US**

# Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division of Santa Barbara County Public Works

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### **FOLLOW US!**

@Less.Is.More.SB on Instagram



VISIT OUR WEBSITE at www.LessIsMore.org for comprehensive information on all things solid

waste in Santa Barbara County.

\*The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division is abbreviated to RRWM throughout this booklet.













### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

RRWM recognizes that all of our solid waste processes and procedures, operationally and administratively, take place on Chumash land. RRWM honors the Chumash people, and recognizes the past, present, and future Chumash people of the region. We strive to nurture and sustain the environment and are inspired by the Chumash people's past and present stewardship.

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY IS HERE TO HELP YOU REDUCE YOUR WASTE IN 2026.

The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division (RRWM) has many innovative environmental programs designed to help residents and business owners create less waste and manage any generated waste properly. Our existing waste programs have been instrumental in extending the useful life of our landfills and reducing potential environmental impacts. Even so, more progress remains to be made to send less reusable and recyclable material to the landfill. RRWM will continue to develop and expand programs to divert more materials. Thank you in advance for your participation in our programs to help meet our community's environmental goals!

By using this resource, you will discover information and resources that will help you reduce the amount of waste you generate, and reuse and recycle the products and materials you have used.

If you have questions or suggestions for improvement, please contact RRWM at (805) 882-3600.

This calendar is for informational purposes only. Please reach out to the County with any questions. Also, please note that solid waste laws change, weather can affect operations, and certain facilities may close without notice. The information included within should not be regarded as complete with respect to the products, services, or institutions it lists. It is not meant to be exclusive or exclusionary in any way, and it does not vouch for the capabilities, trustworthiness, or performance of any individual, business, or institution listed in these pages.

This calendar is your one-stop shop for all things relating to waste reduction, reuse, and recycling in Santa Barbara County.

RRWM created this calendar to make sure our residents have year-round access to the most helpful and informative solid waste resources. This is a new-and-improved version of our Less Is More Guide.

This calendar starts out with general information and some details on important programs that are helping Santa Barbara County reduce its environmental impacts.

Then, each month focuses on specific materials, projects, and programs implemented by RRWM. We hope this calendar will help you learn something new and provide helpful resources throughout the year.

P.S. You may have noticed that we no longer have the A-Z section. All solid waste collection locations and further details on disposal opportunities can be found at www.LesslsMore.org.













FUNDING FOR THIS CALENDAR HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT; THE CITIES OF GOLETA, SANTA BARBARA, AND SOLVANG; AND THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY (CALRECYCLE).

Authored and developed by Kaitlyn Haberlin, with editing contributions by Mackie Forgey, Leslie Robinson and Michael Roysner. Graphic design by Type A Creative. This calendar was printed in the fall of 2025.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is an "ABOP?"

ABOP is an acronym for **A**ntifreeze, **B**atteries, **O**il, and Latex **P**aint. An ABOP center is a facility that only accepts these types of household hazardous waste, as well as oil filters.

### Some types of plastic have the chasing arrows symbol on them, but you say they're not recyclable, why?

The chasing arrows symbol is currently not regulated and really only tells us what kind of plastic the container is made from. The plastics industry has deceptively used the symbol to green wash their products. Only plastics #1 and #2, and rigid plastics #5, are recyclable in your curbside bin.



# Some companies have recycling programs. Why can I send these items in for recycling but can't recycle them at the curb?

Some companies advertise mail-back recycling programs. These companies pay for specialized recycling just for their product, which is great! However, these systems are expensive and are less efficient. We need to focus on major commodities such as glass, metals, paper and some plastics to make recycling effective and economical in Santa Barbara County. Please continue to participate in these special programs as they are offered, though.

### If I accidentally threw something away, can I get it back?

Unfortunately, no. Our landfill crews bury an average of 500 tons of trash per day. For the safety of our staff and the environment, we cannot retrieve anything from our transfer stations or landfill.

### I live in an incorporated city. Will the information in this calendar apply to me?

Yes! Nearly all of the information in this calendar applies to all Santa Barbara County residents. When necessary, we mention when something only applies to certain communities.

### Why is trash, recycling, and waste reduction so complicated?

Sometimes it is; sometimes it's common sense! Trash and recycling are so complicated because our everyday items are getting more complicated. It's harder to recycle things when they're made out of more than one material. We believe that knowledge is power, so if you have a question, contact us!

### Can you share a fun fact about recycling?

Sure! Did you know that crayons can be recycled through the company Crazy Crayons? Learn more at CrazyCrayons.com. Other unique items like bras, drywall, fishing lines, golf balls, and wine corks can be recycled too. Visit **www.LesslsMore.org** for a plethora of information all on all things waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and trash.

### **KEY TERMS**

Compost: The product resulting from the controlled decomposition of organic debris which is then used as a soil amendment. Materials that can be composted include: leaves, grass clippings, fruit and vegetable trimmings, and other organic materials commonly found in municipal waste.

Construction & Demolition Debris (C&D): Material generated during construction or demolition activities that is mostly recyclable. Common materials include concrete, drywall, and wood.

**Divert or Diversion**: To not landfill something, and instead, reuse, repair, recycle, or otherwise keep out of the landfill.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW): Materials that are flammable, corrosive, reactive, and/or poisonous. Examples of HHW include paint, motor oil, cleaning products, and insecticides. DO NOT place in the trash!

**Landfill:** A place to dispose of municipal solid waste by burying it in a series of compacted layers up to a permitted amount.

**Mulch**: A soil covering made of organic materials such as yard trimmings that is commonly placed around plants to retain soil moisture, control weeds, prevent erosion, help maintain even soil temperature, and enrich the soil.

Recyclable: Materials that can be processed into a new product. Beware! Some items say they are recyclable but might not be accepted in your curbside bin.

**Recycled-Content**: The portion of a product's or package's weight that is composed of materials that have been recovered from waste; this may include pre-consumer or post-consumer materials.

# **SOLID WASTE 101**

# Santa Barbara County is diverse in its people, environments, and the way we handle OUR WASTE!

RRWM provides a wide variety of community programs to the region overall, as well as services specific to the unincorporated areas of the County. RRWM funds these programs through contracts with partnering cities and through program fees included in the solid waste collection bills of households and businesses in the unincorporated area. The rest of this guide will dive deeper into all of the programs offered throughout the County.

### **INCORPORATED AREAS**

Residents and businesses within the cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Solvang should contact their cities directly for program information.

City of Buellton, (805) 686-0137
City of Carpinteria, (805) 684-5405
City of Goleta, (805) 961-7500
City of Guadalupe, (805) 356-3889
City of Lompoc, (805) 875-8024
City of Santa Barbara, (805) 564-5631
City of Santa Maria, (805) 925-0951, ext. 7270

City of Solvang, (805) 688-5575 Vandenberg Space Force Base, (805) 606-2359

### **UNINCORPORATED AREAS**

County of Santa Barbara Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division, (805) 882-3600

MarBorg Industries, (805) 963-1852





### TRANSFER STATIONS AND LANDFILLS

### **SOUTH COAST**

### **South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station**

This County-operated facility serves as a convenient collection point for non-hazardous waste generated on the South Coast. It processes approximately 200 tons per day of recyclable materials.

### **Tajiguas Landfill and ReSource Center**

This County-operated facility serves the unincorporated areas of the South Coast, including the Santa Ynez and New Cuyama valleys and the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang. The facility is only open to those with service accounts. Self-hauled waste can be taken to the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station.

### **NORTH COUNTY**

### **Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station**

This County-operated facility can process up to 212 tons of waste per day and services the Santa Ynez Valley and self-hauled waste from the cities of Buellton and Solvang.

### **New Cuyama Transfer Station**

This County-operated facility serves residents in New Cuyama and the unincorporated Cuyama Valley.

### **Ventucopa Transfer Station**

This County-operated facility serves residents in Ventucopa and the unincorporated Cuyama Valley.

### **City of Santa Maria Landfill**

This City-operated facility serves the City of Santa Maria and the unincorporated areas of the Santa Maria Valley.

### City of Lompoc Landfill

This City-operated facility serves the City of Lompoc and the unincorporated areas of the Lompoc Valley.

# ONE COUNTY, MANY LANDFILLS

Landfills go back centuries in Santa Barbara County. Once a landfill closes or reaches its capacity, the jurisdiction operating it is responsible for making sure the buried trash is safe and contained in perpetuity. The map below shows both active and closed landfills in Santa Barbara County.



### A SHORT HISTORY OF TRASH

### THE FIRST CALIFORNIANS

Early Californians used tools and everyday objects made primarily from naturally occurring plant and animal materials. Historical debris piles called "middens" still contain remnants of these activities. The remaining shells and bones are early food scraps!

### MID-CENTURY WASTE MANAGEMENT

Before the days of common plastic use, manufacturers used reusable packaging. Milk, for example, was delivered daily in glass bottles that were returned and used again, and many foods were packaged in metal containers. Before curbside collection, people even burned their trash in their backyard! Eventually, products transitioned from reusable to disposable. In 1967, the Tajiguas Landfill opened which provided a location for our region to consolidate trash. In 1974, Mario Borgatello started the local trash collection company now known as MarBorg Industries. Curbside trash collection began and changed the way we dealt with waste.

### **MODERN DAY RESOURCE RECOVERY**

We don't look at waste as just trash anymore. We now recognize that disposed materials are a resource that we can use in our modern society. Recycling allows us to take waste products and turn them into commodities. This helps us rely less on virgin materials and saves the time, resources, energy, and labor it takes to produce new products. As technologies continue to advance, more materials can be diverted from landfill disposal.

# WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CURB, STAYS AT THE CURB... NOT!

Your curbside containers are only the first step in a sophisticated process of managing Santa Barbara County's waste. We need your help to prevent contamination and ensure worker safety.

### **HOW CLEAN IS CLEAN?**

Recyclables need to be clean and dry, but what does that really mean? We need clean recyclables because liquids or food residue can contaminate the paper and cardboard products commingled in your recycling bin. As soon as paper and cardboard get wet or food-soiled, they start to decompose. Additionally, since recyclables are commodities and will only truly be recycled when they can be sold, we need to make sure our recycling bales meet quality standards. As long as your recyclables are clean and dry to the degree that they aren't going to contaminate any paper and cardboard, that's good enough! Try these tips:

- Pour out liquids.
- Scrape out significant amounts of food.
- Air dry or wipe plastic/liquid/metal containers.
- After pouring out any contents, keep the lid on unless it's made from a different material than the rest of the container (e.g. glass wine bottles may have metal lids, so you should remove those from the bottle and deposit both loosely in your cart).

### **BIN BASICS**



- Containers should be placed at the curb by 6:00 AM on service day.
- Recyclables should be clean, dry, and loose. Do not bag them.
- Green cart collection is different depending on where you live; visit our webpage, www.LesslsMore.org/Organics to learn more.
- Electronic waste and hazardous waste should NEVER go into your trash, recycling, or green curbside containers. These materials can spark fires, harm people and the environment, and damage hauling equipment when improperly disposed. Visit www.LessIsMore.org to learn what to do with these materials.
- Once collected, waste is consolidated at local transfer stations, recycling facilities, and landfills.
- Collection procedures may differ depending on where you live.
- Call your waste hauler for specific information.

Please note that these carts are just an example. Depending on where you live, your waste containers may look different. The majority of single-family Santa Barbara County residents have the following: a trash cart, a recycling cart, and a green cart. Most multi-family housing residents will have the same services but may have dumpsters or other container types. Please call (805) 882-3600 for more information.

### **BULKY ITEM PICK-UPS**

Residents with regular waste collection service in the unincorporated areas of the county are entitled to four FREE "bulky item" collections per year.

- Each bulky item collection is limited to five items or boxes.
- Items that can be collected through these special pick-ups include appliances (e.g. refrigerators, hot water heaters, washing machines, etc.), electronics (e.g. old TVs, computers, etc.), furniture (e.g. couches, tables, mattresses, etc.), and other items that are too large to fit in residential trash containers.
- Loose/un-bagged waste, construction and demolition materials, hazardous waste, and vehicles are NOT eligible.
- The program also includes multifamily complexes, such as apartments and condos. Residents in multi-family complexes must coordinate bulky-item picks-ups through their landlord or property manager.
- Call your hauler to schedule an appointment and let them know which items you want picked up.

# **BULKY ITEM PICK-UP EXAMPLES:**



















# **ORGANIC WASTE**

Organic waste is special. You'll see it mentioned many times throughout this guide!

### WHAT IS ORGANIC WASTE?







**Food Scraps** 

**Yard Waste** 

**Wet/Soiled Paper** 

### **SENATE BILL 1383**

SB 1383 is a California law that went into effect January 1, 2022, and is aimed at reducing methane emissions, extending the life of active landfills, and addressing food insecurity through the increased recovery of organics. Prior to this law, organic waste made up 50% of what was landfilled in the state. Organic waste buried in landfills releases methane, a powerful greenhouse gas and a major contributor to climate change.





### THERE ARE TWO KEY PIECES TO SB 1383:

### **Organic Waste Reduction and Diversion**

How you participate in organic waste recycling depends on where you live. Residents and businesses who properly participate in their region's organics recycling programs can be confident their organic waste will be made into compost or mulch.

### **Edible Food Recovery**

Some businesses are required to donate edible food that would have otherwise been thrown away.

Categories of businesses that are required to donate are listed below. Additional information on food recovery can be found at www.LessIsMore.org/FoodRecovery.

### Tier 1

- Supermarkets
- Grocery stores with facilities ≥ 10,000 sq. ft.
- · Food service providers
- Food distributors
- Wholesale food vendors

### Tier 2

- Restaurants with facilities ≥ 5,000 sq. ft. or 250+ seats
- Hotels with an on-site food facility and 200+ rooms
- Health facilities with an on-site food facility and 100+ beds
- · Large venues and events
- Local education agency with an on-site food facility

# THE RESOURCE CENTER: REDEFINING WASTE RECOVERY

Santa Barbara County continues to expand its legacy of environmental leadership with the ReSource Center, a new cutting-edge facility that is fundamentally redefining waste recovery.



### Reduces Waste

Diverts additional 60% of waste from landfill



Creates Jobs

Creates nearly 100 permanent living wage jobs



### Reduces GHG Emissions

Removes emissions equivalent of 28,668 cars annually



### Improves Air Quality

Captures methane gas and generates electricity with clean-burning gas engines



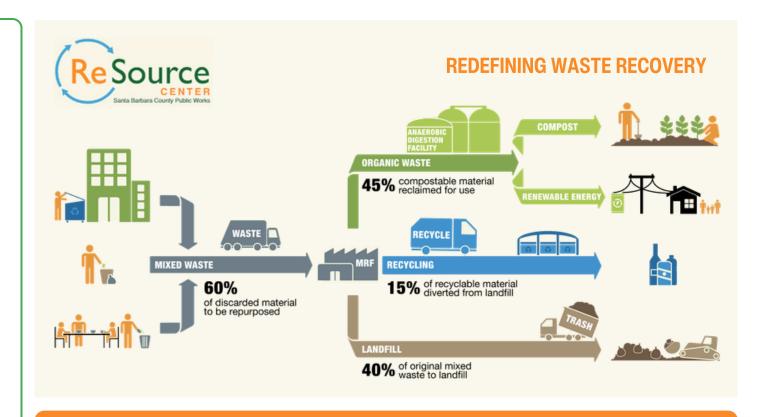
### Generates Renewable Energy

Annual renewable energy generated to power 2,000 homes



### Meets or Exceeds State Mandates

Vital to achieving state-mandated GHG emission reductions



The ReSource Center converts commercial and residential waste into resources by recovering recyclable materials, transforming organics into landscape nutrients, and creating renewable energy in the process. With this new technology, approximately 60% of additional waste from our trash cans is diverted from the landfill, bringing our region's diversion rate to above 85% while significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As our region continues to grow, the ReSource Center is an opportunity to prepare the next generation for responsible waste management and a healthier environment.



Learn more about this state-of-the-art waste management facility at: www.LessIsMore.org/ReSourceCenter

# SOUTH COAST & SANTA YNEZ VALLEY ORGANICS RECYCLING

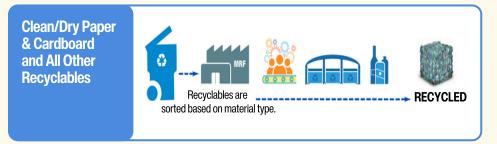
Including the cities of Buellton, Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang, as well as the unincorporated areas of the Santa Ynez Valley and the South Coast.

### HOW ARE WE RECOVERING ALL ORGANIC WASTE IN THIS REGION?



### WHICH ORGANICS GO WHERE?







### **REMEMBER!**

Although organic waste recycling programs are easy to use and still result in high quality compost, **it's best to compost as locally as possible**, like at a community garden or by having a worm bin in your kitchen. Backyard composting resources are listed on pages 15-20.

## CARPINTERIA, LOMPOC, AND SANTA MARIA AREA ORGANICS RECYCLING

Including the cities of Carpinteria, Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Guadalupe, as well as the unincorporated Lompoc and Santa Maria Valley communities of Los Alamos, Orcutt, Vandenberg Village, and Mission Hills.

# HOW ARE WE RECOVERING ALL ORGANIC WASTE IN THIS REGION?

# Everything in your green container is now composted at a local facility and then used in local agriculture!

Green containers in these areas now accept more types of organic waste, including but not limited to:

- Yard Waste
- Coffee Filters
- Used Napkins
- Greasy Pizza Boxes
- Meats
- Bones
- Fruit or Vegetable Scraps
- Plate Waste

### **Tips & Tricks for Your Green Cart**

- Consolidate your food scraps before your collection day. RRWM
  offers free kitchen pails to residents of the unincorporated North
  County region. These handy pails help make collecting and storing
  food scraps easy. Pick up a kitchen pail at 620 W. Foster Road,
  Santa Maria, or find us at one of our North County tabling events.
- Line your kitchen pail with newspaper or a paper bag and clean it often. Kitchen pails are dishwasher safe!
- Use paper bags to deposit food scraps into the green cart.
   This keeps the waste contained and prevents spills.\*

 Store food scraps in the fridge or freezer and take out on collection day. Kitchen pails are fridge and freezer safe!

 Cover food scraps with yard waste or soiled/wet paper products inside the green container.

### **REMEMBER!**

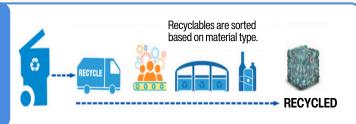
Everything in the green cart is directly sent to be composted. Please remove food from any plastic packaging before putting in the green cart and use paper bags instead of plastic bags.

- NO plastic lined paper products (like paper cups or broth cartons)
- NO plastic bags
- NO plastic packaging

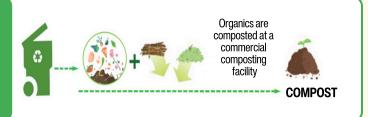
### WHICH ORGANICS GO WHERE?



Clean/Dry Paper and Cardboard



Food Scraps, Soiled/Wet Paper and Yard Waste



### **REMEMBER!**

Although organic waste recycling programs are easy to use and still result in high quality compost, **it's best to compost as locally as possible**, like at a community garden or by having a worm bin in your kitchen. Backyard composting resources are listed on pages 15-20.

\*City of Carpinteria residents must bag their food scraps before placing them in their yard waste container.

# **MULCH PROGRAM**

The County of Santa Barbara's mulch is an ideal product manufactured from 100% local recycled materials. Yard waste deposited in green containers from the South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley support the mulch program. Remember, green containers in the Lompoc and Santa Maria Valleys accept yard waste as well as food scraps and wet/food-soiled paper, which is processed into compost instead. Using mulch in your garden saves water and completes the local green waste recycling loop.

### **HOW DO I GET IT?**

- Mulch can be obtained for free from a "load your own" pile
- Large amounts can be delivered for as little as \$20/ton or can be loaded into trucks or trailers for a small fee
  - A dual axle truck/trailer is required for mulch loads at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station

### Mulch is available at two locations:

South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station: 4430 Calle Real, Santa Barbara

Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station: 4004 Foxen Canyon Road, Los Olivos

# Yard waste from green containers in the South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley becomes mulch.

### **NATURAL MULCH BENEFITS**

- Conserves moisture in the soil
- Moderates soil temperature
- Blocks weed growth
- Reduces erosion
- Improves soil structure and fertility over time

Mulch helps preserve natural resources and protect the health of our planet.



For more information regarding mulch, call (805) 681-4981 or visit us online at www.LesslsMore.org/Mulch.

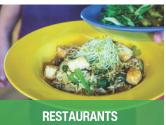
### Green Waste Do's & Don'ts For the South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley

# YES Grass, leaves, small branches, flowers, ivy, plants.

### NO

Palm fronds, pampas grass, poisonous vegetation, food, animal waste, plastic bags, nursery pots, dirt, rocks or smelly socks!













# THE GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

- Provides resources to help businesses achieve certification as a "green" business.
- Helps businesses operate in an environmentally responsible manner and recognizes them for their efforts.

### **BENEFITS TO YOUR BUSINESS**

- Save resources and money
- Attract new customers
- Promotion: website, window decal, annual certification celebration, free advertising
- A safer and healthier workplace





### For More Information

- Visit www.greenbusinessca.org/SantaBarbaraCounty
- Contact the Green Business Program Director at (805) 729-3472
- Send an email to: Coordinator@GreenBizSBC.org



### THE PROCESS

Register online



Watch or attend a green
Business Academy to learn about
the program requirements



**Learn** how to save money and implement sustainability measures



Pay a certification fee



Receive guidance and support



Complete an online checklist and in-person assessment



Receive a certification!



# **PLASTICS**

Not all plastics are created equal. Only plastics numbers 1 and 2, and rigid plastics number 5 that are sized one gallon or larger are recyclable in your curbside bin. Some other plastic recycling processes do exist, but they are highly specialized and expensive.

Film plastics cannot go into your recycling cart.



# **JUNK MAIL**

Prevent unsolicited advertisements that create paper waste. Contact organizations and ask them to remove your name and address from their lists. When you first provide your information, request that your information not be shared.

For reoccurring utility bills, select the "Go Paperless" option.

The Federal Trade Commission has official tips on opting out of junk mail at:

www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-stop-junk-mail





# **ASBESTOS**

Asbestos can pose a threat to human health when microscopic fibers become airborne and are inhaled.

Asbestos is most commonly found in pre-1980 construction: "popcorn" ceilings, pipe insulation, floor tile and mastic, roofing and fireproofing materials, and textured paints. Never dust, sweep, or vacuum these items or other products suspected of containing asbestos fibers.





### **ASBESTOS BAG GUIDELINES**



- Double bagged
- Six millimeters thick
- Specially marked bags indicating contents
- Sealed (twist tied and folded over, and then sealed with duct tape)
- 25 pounds or less per bag (max 5 per trip)
- No holes or tears

If you are abating the asbestos yourself, call **(805) 882-3602** to obtain the appropriate free bags.

If you have large quantities of asbestos in excess of 125 pounds, please call **(805) 681-4345** to obtain a permit application and further instructions.

For information on disposal of filled bags or if you have any questions, please call **(805) 882-3602**, Monday through Friday, or visit **LessIsMore.org**.



# STAY CONNECTED ON LESSISMORE.ORG

**LessIsMore.org** is the ULTIMATE waste reduction, recycling, and waste management site for Santa Barbara County residents. RRWM keeps LessisMore.org up to date with all solid waste happenings in the County. We invite you to click around. We guarantee you will learn something new!

### TAKE A LOOK-SEE

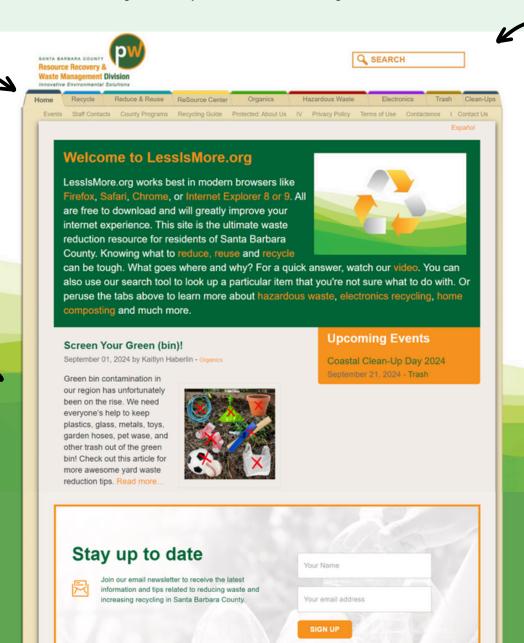
Click around! We try to keep all of our pages organized in these handy-dandy tabs. You might stumble upon a product you've always been curious about, or a program that you've never heard of.



### **KEEP POSTED**

Articles posted here cover an awesome array of topics, including new solid waste legislation, hauler updates, interesting facts, upcoming facility closures, and fun solid waste news.





### **SEARCH**

Search our site for anything you are curious about. Simply type in the material you have a disposal question about, and peruse the results.

SEARCH "COMPUTER RECYCLING"

### **JOIN US**

Solid waste events, including beach clean-ups, hazardous waste collection events, local festivals we'll be attending, and shredding days, are listed here.

### **BE IN THE KNOW**

Sign up for our monthly newsletter, the Less Is More ReView! Each month, we share waste reduction, reuse, and recycling tips and other important solid waste information.

CHECK BACK TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR LOCAL SOLID WASTE WORLD.

# **FOOD FORWARD - REDUCE YOUR FOOD PRINT**

### WHY IS FOOD WASTE BAD?

Every part of the food chain has an environmental impact. When we waste food, we lose more than just our leftovers. In reality, we are also wasting the water, land space, and soil used to grow our grub.

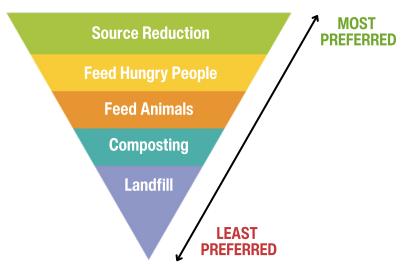
Throwing away food also means we are wasting the time and labor needed to farm and process our food, not to mention the fuel and resources needed to move, package, and store these items. Just think about all that human-power and time used to grow your favorite snacks!



In Santa Barbara County, 20% of our waste is food. These extra pounds of waste can be put back into the soil through compost, or donated to the community.

You have the power to reduce food waste!

### METHODS TO WASTE LESS FOOD





Read more about food waste in Santa Barbara County by visiting www.LessIsMore.org/FoodForward, or by calling (805) 882-3603.

### SIMPLE WAYS TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

TIP<sub>1</sub>

**Inventory** and use what you have before you buy more.

TIP 2

Be creative by using the edible parts of foods that you normally throw away.

TIP 3

Donate healthy, safe, and untouched foods to food banks.

TIP 4

Freeze or preserve surplus fruits and vegetables

TIP 5

Know how much food you're actually wasting by measuring your waste

TIP 6

Reduce plate waste. Start with a small serving only what you can eat.













# **JANUARY**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				New Year's Day		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

There are so many ways to keep organic material out of the landfill. From replanting veggie cuttings to donating leftover boxes of macaroni and cheese, it all makes a difference. Some of these solutions are easier than others, but we hope you can try some out and learn something new!

# By reducing the amount of food that you waste, you can:

- 1. Save money
- 2. Provide food to local people and animals
- 3. Create a nutrient-rich soil amendment
- 4. Reduce the use of local resources such as water, energy, and land





# **COMPOSTING ABCs**

Composting is nature's way of turning organic materials back into nutrient-rich soil in order for the cycle of life to continue. Fungi, bacteria and invertebrates (also known as the "FBI") in healthy soil transform organic matter into vital nutrients used by plants to nourish new growth. The best way to build healthy soil in your garden is by creating compost. Composting will improve the health and appearance of your yard and save money on fertilizers, all while preserving natural resources and protecting the health of the planet. Composting gets a few pages in this guide. Skip ahead to learn more about composting methods you can try at home.

### WHAT MAKES COMPOST?

- Three (3) parts "browns" as a carbon source Water just enough to keep materials moist
- Two (2) parts "greens" as a nitrogen source Oxygen let it breathe!

### "BROWNS" EXAMPLES

Eggshells, nut shells, sawdust, hay and straw, yard trimmings, houseplants, wood chips, leaves, shredded newspaper, other paper products

### "GREENS" EXAMPLES:

Raw or cooked fruits and vegetables, bread and grains, coffee grounds and paper filters, grass clippings, paper tea bags, manure from herbivorous animals

### **KEEP OUT:**

Dairy products, fats and oils, greasy foods, meat, pet wastes, anything treated with chemicals or pesticides, produce stickers, roots of perennial weeds, coal, glass, metals, plastics

Everyone at RRWM loves compost. Reach out to us for tips, troubleshooting, and general questions at www.LessIsMore.org/Compost, or by calling (805) 882-3600.

> Check out our booklet, "Composting ABC's" for more fun information. Download a digital copy online at www.LessIsMore.org/Compost.



### THESE DECOMPOSERS BREAK DOWN **ORGANIC WASTE INTO COMPOST**







**FUNGI** 

**BACTERIA** 

**INVERTEBRATES** 

### THE DECOMPOSITION CYCLE





# **FEBRUARY**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It's Black History Month!	Groundhog Day					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
**************************************						Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day	17	18  Ash Wednesday  First Day of Ramadan	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

While you don't need a composting bin to compost, many people prefer to contain their compost in one. The County offers the Earth Machine backyard composting bin at a discounted price. This offer is for Santa Barbara County residents only.



# Available year-round at these locations:

South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station 4430 Calle Real, Santa Barbara

Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station 4004 Foxen Canyon, Los Olivos

### North County Public Works Building\*

620 West Foster Road, Orcutt
\*This location only accepts exact
cash or check.

QUICK TIP: Keep fallen leaves, grass clippings, and other yard materials in your yard as a mulch. Mulch can be organic material such as wood chips, grass clippings, leaves or compost that is spread over the soil surface. Mulch will conserve water, suppress weeds, and moderate soil temperatures - all while naturally decomposing into the soil and nourishing your plants. This is the natural cycle.



# **BACKYARD COMPOST**

Food scraps and yard waste can make up as much as 40% of a typical household's waste. Composting where you live keeps these materials out of our municipal waste management systems, while also creating your own free nutrient-rich soil amendment to use in your garden or landscaping.

Aerobic composting systems take up more space and need to be outside. Aerobic piles require oxygen in their decomposition cycle. Oxygen is essential to keep the "FBI" alive and prevent methane gas from developing. The "FBI" will naturally show up in your system. It's your job to keep these critters happy!

STEP

Find a good spot for your compost pile. Select an unpaved, flat and shady or partly shady spot near a water source. The compost area should be at least three feet wide by three feet tall.

STEP

Add three parts "Brown" materials and two parts "Green" materials to your pile. Smaller pieces mean more surface area for the "FBI" to work their magic and generate a quicker finished compost. Review page 15 for a reminder of "Browns," "Greens" and the "FBI."

STEP 3 When you add "Greens" and "Browns" to your compost, turn over and fluff the pile using a shovel or pitchfork to get oxygen into the pile. You can also add water. The pile should always be as moist as a wrung-out sponge.

STEP

When material at the bottom is dark and rich in color, with no remnants of food or yard waste, your compost is ready to use.

STEP 5 You can work your finished compost into the soil or simply leave it on the surface above plant roots. Applied compost will increase nutrient levels, permeability, water retention of your soil, and much more!

A happy and healthy compost pile should be available in about three months.





### **QUICK TIPS**

- 1. If you notice an unpleasant odor, pests, or if the pile is too moist, try adding more "Browns."
- 2. Try to make a stockpile of "Browns" so that you can easily add more when troubleshooting.
- 3. Many people think they need to put their compost bin in a sunny or hot area to help keep the compost warm. This is not true and will actually attract more pests! Any heat from your compost bin is created from microbial activity, and no additional heat needs to be supplied.
- 4. While you should never put animal products in a backyard compost pile, commercial composting facilities can reach much higher temperatures for a longer period of time to safely break down these materials. You can still divert animal products such as meats, cheeses, and bones from the landfill with curbside composting programs.
- 5. Remember, if you live in the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, Solvang, Buellton, or the unincorporated South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley, all excess food waste you can't compost at home should go in the trash! If you live in the cities of Carpinteria, Lompoc, Santa Maria, Guadalupe, or the unincorporated Lompoc and Santa Maria Valleys, your excess food waste that can't be composted at home should go in the green cart!

# **MARCH**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It's Women's History Month!						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Saving Time Starts						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		St. Patrick's Day			Eid al-Fitr	***************************************
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### **WHY COMPOST?**



Organic waste, including yard trimmings and food scraps, is a resource, not rubbish.





Turn your yard trimmings and food scraps into nutrient-rich compost where you live.





It's easy to make a great soil amendment while greatly reducing your environmental impact.

Palm Sunday



**Come learn with us!** 

RRWM hosts community composting workshops throughout the year. For upcoming events, visit www.LesslsMore.org/events!

# **WORM BINS**

Worms eat their weight in organic material each day and then produce a finished compost product called castings. Worm bins require less space and maintenance than other types of composting bins, and they can be placed in many different environments. These are perfect for all levels of composter!

### **WORM BINS ARE EASY AND FUN!**

The basic composting principles apply to worm bins, but the worms do most of the work for you! Start your own worm bin by following the steps below.

STEP 1

Get a good container. Anything from a 5-gallon bucket to a multi-level craftsman bin will do! Just make sure your container:

- Is opaque,
- · Has a lid or cover, and
- Has ventilation holes at the top.

STEP 2

Get some  $\boldsymbol{WORMS}!$  Either online or locally.

STEP 3 Add your worms, bedding, and food scraps, and watch the magic happen!

Composting with worms is also called **vermicomposting**!

### **WORM BIN INGREDIENTS**

### "BEDDING" EXAMPLES

Hay and straw, or shredded newspaper, cardboard or other untreated paper products.

### "WORM FOOD" EXAMPLES:

Most fruit and vegetable scraps and peels, eggshells, coffee grounds, filters, and tea bags.



Meat and bones, dairy products, oils and fat, and foods that are very acidic or spicy (the worms won't eat those!). Worms especially can't have pineapple.

### **GET COMPOSTING WORMS**



Island Seed and Feed
29 South Fairview Avenue, Goleta
(805) 967-5262
www.islandseed.com

Also available online and at various local farmers markets.









Use your worm castings by applying them directly to soil, or by making worm tea!

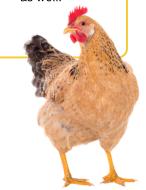
Got Easter eggs? Rinsed eggshells are great for worm bins. Make sure to reuse plastic eggs next year.

# APRIL IT'S EARTH MONTH!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			Passover April Fools' Day		Good Friday	
5 Easter	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Tax Day	16	17	18
19	20	21	22  Earth Day!	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

A worm's kidneys and other organs don't filter out nutrients the way human bodies do.
Therefore, worm poop has super high levels of nitrogen. Plants **NEED** and **LOVE** nitrogen!
Nitrogen helps plants flower and produce fruits.

P.S. Chicken poop is also very nitrogen rich. Chickens make great composters as well!





Download our free composting guides at www.LessIsMore.org/Compost.

More questions? Call us at (805) 882-3600.



# **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS - DON'T DUMP IT!**

### HAZARDOUS WASTE CAN BE UNSAFE TO PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

Help us keep our county clean by properly disposing of hazardous waste. Simply take your hazardous waste to your local hazardous waste facility. While transporting hazardous waste, make sure that:

- Waste is in containers no larger than 5 gallons
- You are transporting no more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds
- Containers have secure lids and will not spill during transport
- Waste is not leaking or spilling

### COMMON HAZARDOUS WASTE AND HOW IT'S DISPOSED OF

### **Paints & Solvents**



Once collected, latex paints are reprocessed and used for graffiti abatement, public projects, or resold. Oil-based paints can supplement energy sources at hazardous waste facilities.

### **Batteries**



Batteries are shredded and then submerged in a solution to neutralize any electricity. Some metals are pulled out and recycled, while non-metal components can be remade into new batteries.

### Fertilizers, Pesticides & Herbicides



Lawn care products are heated to high temperatures at which their poisonous qualities are destroyed. Remaining materials are disposed of in a highly regulated hazardous waste landfill.

### **Cleaning Products**



Cleaning products are treated similarly to fertilizers and pesticides. This ensures that the chemicals in the product are contained and not polluting the environment.

### Fluorescent Bulbs



Mercury found in fluorescent bulbs is extracted. This mercury can be reused in other bulbs and thermostats. The glass and metals that make up the bulb are recycled.

### **Motor Oil & Filters**



Motor oil can be re-refined and cleaned to be used again! You can even buy recycled motor oil in the store. Filters are cleaned and the metals are recycled. You can reuse filters.

# CHECK OUT THE COMMUNITY HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTER!

This facility is free for residents in the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Solvang, and in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County.



### **HOUSEHOLDS** — FREE!

Saturdays 9–3 | Sundays 11–3 No appointments needed Must show proof of residency



### **BUSINESSES — FEE BASED**

Fridays by appointment

Make an appointment online at

### www.LesslsMore.org/Business-Hazardous



Materials that are still usable are saved from disposal and made available to the public for FREE! Come by the Center to see what's available.

In partnership with the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang, as well as the University of California. Santa Barbara. Did you know? Most of the hazardous materials we collect are **REUSED** or **RECYCLED**? Once collected, hazardous waste is sorted and safely prepared for transportation. The waste then gets sent to various facilities for proper processing.

# **MAY**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0			It's Asian Pacific Islander Month!	
3	4	5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7		9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31			U Visit	www.LessIsMo	re.org for more i	nformation.

# THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS ACCEPT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

### SOUTH COUNTY

Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center 565 Henry T. Yang Drive (805) 882-3602

City of Carpinteria ABOP Center 5775 Carpinteria Avenue (805) 880-3415

MarBorg Industries' Recycling/ABOP Center 132 Nopalitos Way (805) 963-1852

MarBorg Industries'
Recycling/ABOP Center
20 David Love Place
(805) 963-1852

### **NORTH COUNTY**

City of Lompoc Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility 1585 North "V" Street (805) 875-8024 & (805) 875-8027

City of Santa Maria Household Hazardous Waste Facility 2065 East Main Street (805) 925-0951, ext. 7270

Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station 4004 Foxen Canyon Road (805) 686-5080

MarBorg Industries'
Recycling/ABOP Center
97 Commerce Drive
(805) 963-1852

MarBorg Industries'
Recycling/ABOP Center
1850 West Betteravia Road
(805) 963-1852

Call ahead to confirm operating hours and if your materials will be accepted.

# **STAY SHARP ON SHARPS & MIND YOUR MEDS!**

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OFFERS FREE DISPOSAL OF HOME-GENERATED SHARPS AND MEDICATIONS.

Almost every single pharmacy in Santa Barbara County has a free medication drop-off kiosk like the one below.

Simply place your unwanted medications in the kiosk and they'll be safely disposed of. Don't flush your medications. This pollutes our waterways.

By using these kiosks, you are preventing pollution and keeping medications out of the wrong hands.



Find the closest kiosk to you at www.LessIsMore.org/Medications.

All pills should be kept in their original packaging and/or bagged. Loose pills should not be placed in the kiosk. If desired, labels can be blocked out with pen or removed.





Sharps should be stored out of reach of children and pets and kept in an approved container.

There are three ways for residents to get a **FREE** sharps container.

### **OPTION 1**

MED-Project and Inmar are two stewardship organizations that will send you a **FREE** mail-back sharps container directly to your home. Once the container is full, simply mail the package to a medical waste facility using the free shipping label that was provided.

You can order your sharps container online at:

- www.MED-Project.org
- www.SharpsTakebackCalifornia.org (operated by Inmar)

### **OPTION 2**

Residential customers of MarBorg and E.J. Harrison and Sons can request a free sharps container by calling their hauler. Sharps containers will be sent to your home with a free mailing label. Once filled, you can mail your container to a medical waste facility.

### **OPTION 3**

The Santa Barbara County Public Works and Public Health Departments partner together to provide FREE sharps containers at the Public Health clinic locations. Visit your closest clinic to request a sharps container. Once full, bring back your container to the same location. These sharps are combined with the sharps generated at the clinics, and sent to a medical waste facility.

We're happy to help! Contact us at www.LessIsMore.org/Sharps, or by calling (805) 882-3600.



# **JUNE**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	It's Pride Month!					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Flag Day					Juneteenth	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day						
28	29	30				1
					<b>Senat</b> manufac	te Bill 212 requires s turers to provide fre

### **WHAT ARE SHARPS?**

Sharps include needles, syringes with needles, and disposable lancets.

It is ILLEGAL to throw these in the trash. These also pose a significant danger to recycling workers. No one wants to get poked!

Sharps can carry many bloodborne pathogens. Because of this, sharps are autoclaved to prevent the spread of disease.



The programs listed here are only available to residents. Businesses should call us at (805) 882-3603 for more information.

In partnership with: The County of Santa Barbara Public Health Department and the cities of Carpinteria, Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Solvang

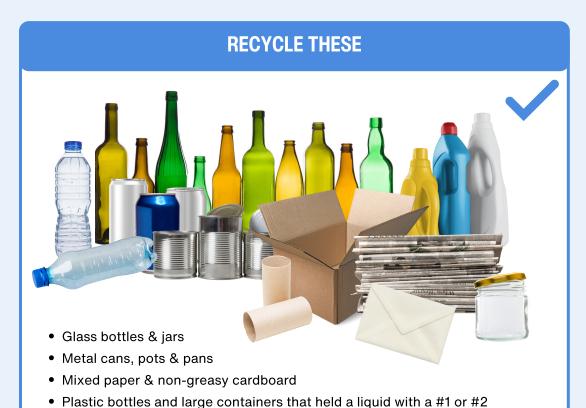
Senate Bill 212 requires sharps and pharmaceuticals manufacturers to provide free disposal of their products to their customers. The stewardship organizations listed in "Option 1" above exist because of this bill and are managed by the pharmaceutical industry.



# WHAT GOES IN YOUR BLUE BIN?

### REDUCE FIRST, THEN REUSE, AND LASTLY RECYCLE

All items should be clean, dry, and loose (not bagged). Liquids, food scraps, and trash can contaminate clean recyclables and ruin their recyclability. Bags and film plastics can damage recycling machinery.



### TO BAG OR NOT TO BAG?

recycling symbol

**Not!** Bags are unnecessary for curbside recycling. Bags actually cause contamination and are not recyclable. Our facilities need to pick them out and landfill them. It is much better for our recycling process if recyclables are loose in your cart.

• Rigid plastic containers with a #5 symbol, sized one gallon or larger





# **JULY**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			1	2	3	4	
						Independence Day	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	16	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Recyclable materials are sent to transfer stations where items are consolidated. Items are then sent to various locations to be further
26	27	28	29	30	31		processed and transformed into something new.
					and car	metals. However, only recycle electronics, p	led, not just plastics, glass, paper, these can go into your blue bin. We aint, and batteries, but they should n. These require special collection.



# IF IT PLUGS IN, CHARGES UP, OR TAKES BATTERIES, IT'S E-WASTE!

### **E-WASTE 101**

Electronic waste, or e-waste, often contains valuable and rare metals, as well as chemicals that can be harmful to you and the environment. The metal, glass, and plastic in electronic devices can all be recycled.

California has a prosperous electronic waste recycling program. Since 2005, retailers have been required to charge a small point-of-purchase fee on certain electronic devices. Retailers must put this revenue into a fund that the State uses to support recycling activities. This encourages electronic waste recycling, making it extremely accessible to consumers. It's a win-win!

### RETAILER TAKEBACK

California law states that any retailer that sells cell phones or rechargeable batteries is required to provide safe disposal of those items. If you have an unwanted cell phone or rechargeable battery (like a battery from a power tool or digital camera) simply take your item back to where you bought it. If a business doesn't have a takeback program, please let us know by calling (805) 882-3602.



Still works? Donate it! Bring unwanted electronics in working condition to local thrift stores, schools, or non-profits.



# **AUGUST**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31		WARNIN Electro	IG! nics should never o	go into your trash o	or recycling bin.

Electronics should never go into your trash or recycling bin. These devices could spark a fire or leach harmful chemicals if not recycled properly. Keep loose batteries separate from e-waste. See pages 29-30 for more information on batteries.

# E-WASTE IS COLLECTED FOR FREE FROM RESIDENTS AT THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES:

### SOUTH COUNTY

City of Carpinteria ABOP Center 5775 Carpinteria Avenue (805) 880-3415

MarBorg Industries'
Recycling/ABOP Center
132 Nopalitos Way
(805) 963-1852

MarBorg Industries' Recycling/ABOP Center 20 David Love Place (805) 963-1852

### **NORTH COUNTY**

City of Lompoc Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility 1585 North "V" Street (805) 875-8024 & (805) 875-8027

City of Santa Maria Household Hazardous Waste Facility 2065 East Main Street (805) 925-0951, ext. 7270

Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Station 4004 Foxen Canyon Road (805) 686-5080

MarBorg Industries'
Recycling/ABOP Center
97 Commerce Drive
(805) 963-1852

MarBorg Industries'
Recycling/ABOP Center
1850 West Betteravia Road
(805) 963-1852



# RECHARGE YOUR BATTERY KNOWLEDGE

Batteries contain hazardous metals and corrosive materials that pose serious fire, health, and safety threats when improperly discarded. In California, we handle batteries as hazardous waste! Visit www.LesslsMore.org/Batteries for more information.



### TYPES OF BATTERIES

### SINGLE USE

**Includes Alkaline and Lithium Metal** 

Makes up about **90%** of the battery market but **takes more energy to manufacture** than the energy they produce.



### RECHARGEABLE

Includes Nickel Cadmium (NiCd), Lithium-Ion (Li-ion), & Lead-Acid

Much lower environmental impact and can be reused.



### **BATTERY EMBEDDED ELECTRONICS**

Like toys, phones, smart watches, & e-cigarettes

Batteries that are placed permanently into an electronic device. They are typically rechargeable but are sometimes single use.





Batteries that are embedded in a device and can't be removed should be disposed of as e-waste except for e-cigarettes.

E-cigarettes or other types of smoking devices are hazardous and can spark fires. Never place these in the trash or recycling bin.

These must be disposed of at a hazardous waste facility.

Visit www.LessIsMore.org/HazardousWaste for recycling options near you.



### BATTERY RECOVERY IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Batteries can spark and cause a fire when thrown away. Never place them in the trash or recycling bin!

### **EASY BATTERY DISPOSAL STEPS**

### **Curbside Battery Collection**

For MarBorg customers only

Recycle your old batteries at home! **Tape** the ends of the rechargeable batteries, **bag** in a clear plastic bag, and **place on top** of your recycling bin on collection days!

### **OR drop them off!**

### **MarBorg South Coast Locations**

- 20 David Love Place, Goleta, (805) 963-1852
- 132 Nopalitos Way, Santa Barbara, (805) 963-1852

### **Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center**

• UCSB Campus at Henry T. Yang Dr., Bldg. 565, Isla Vista, (805) 882-3602

### **MarBorg North County Locations**

- 1850 West Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria, (805) 963-1852
- 97 Commerce Dr., Buellton, (805) 963-1852

Many other locations accept batteries for recycling. Visit www.LessIsMore.org/Batteries for a complete list.

# HELP US STOP THE SPARK AND RECYCLE YOUR BATTERIES PROPERLY!

65% of fires at solid waste facilities are caused by batteries.

- Up to 92% of Li-ion batteries are thrown away where they risk being crushed, punctured, or mishandled.
- Mishandling of batteries causes them to spark. Fires can damage equipment, result in severe injuries, or cause a wildfire.
- 100% of materials in batteries can be reclaimed for making new batteries or base material for roads and bridges.





# **SEPTEMBER**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		l Hispanic Heritage Month through 10/15	2	4	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12 Rosh Hashanah
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Yom Kippur	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### **RETAILER TAKEBACK**

California law states that any retailer that sells rechargeable batteries is required to provide safe disposal of those items. If you have unwanted rechargeable batteries (like a battery from a power tool or digital camera, or rechargeable AA or AAA batteries) simply take them back to the retailer. If a business doesn't have a takeback program, call (805) 882-3602.

Or you can simply place your batteries in a clear plastic bag on top of the blue recycling container on collection day.\*

MarBorg customers only



Automotive batteries cannot be recycled through the curbside program. Automotive batteries are included in the retailer takeback program or can be dropped off at local hazardous waste facilities and all Santa Barbara County Transfer Stations.



Visit www.LessIsMore.org for more information.

# **LEGISLATION AND THE FUTURE OF SOLID WASTE**

Santa Barbara County prides itself in implementing innovative solid waste solutions. Projects like the ReSource Center have brought leading solid waste technologies to our region. We're also working behind the scenes to support solid waste legislation that will benefit local residents and businesses, such as bills that create free disposal programs for hard-to-handle materials. Extended Producer Responsibility and Product Stewardship laws are pieces of legislation that shift the burden of disposal from ratepayers and local jurisdictions to the producers of the item. For example, since 2018, Senate Bill (SB) 212 has required pharmaceutical companies to provide free disposal of sharps and medications for all residents in California.

In turn, these laws encourage the development of more accessible recycling programs and sustainable design of products to make them more recyclable. Extended Producer Responsibility and Product Stewardship laws and programs are the future of solid waste!

The materials below have an affiliated Extended Producer Responsibility or Product Stewardship program.

### **MATTRESSES**

Bye-Bye Mattress is a mattress recycling program administered by the industry-founded Mattress Recycling Council (MRC). Fees are collected on each mattress when purchased. These fees cover mattress recycling costs, even if you purchased a mattress before this program was enacted. Mattresses are collected for free for residents at all MRC facilities. See all MRC facilities in Santa Barbara County at www.LessIsMore.org/Mattress.



### **CARPET**

Similar to the MRC, the

Carpet America Recovery Effort
(CARE) was created
to administer carpet recycling
programs. Carpet recycling
drop-off locations can be
found online at
www.LessIsMore.org/Carpet.

Carpet is collected for a significantly lower rate at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station because of this program.



### **PAINT**

The paint industry is responsible

for providing free and accessible paint recycling programs for all its customers. Under the California Paint Stewardship Program, paints with their original label are accepted for free at drop-off sites.

Visit www.paintcare.org
to find your nearest drop-off site. Interior and exterior architectural paints, deck coatings, primers, sealers, stains and more are all accepted in the program.



# RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES & CELL PHONES

Call2Recycle is a program funded by the battery industry to help recycle rechargeable batteries and cell phones.

There are many battery recycling locations in Santa Barbara County.

Check out pages 29-30 for more information on batteries, or visit www.LessIsMore.org/Batteries.



### **PHARMACEUTICALS**



Pharmaceuticals have many risks when not disposed of properly. Children and animals may accidentally ingest old medications if they are left around the house. In California, the pharmaceutical industry funds extensive disposal programs all over the state, as mandated in Senate Bill 212. See page 23 for an overview on how this law is implemented in Santa Barbara County. Mail-back programs are also available to Santa Barbara County residents. Learn more at www.LesslsMore.org/Meds.



# **OCTOBER**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Indigenous Peoples' Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

Make sure to compost those Jack-O-Lanterns!

### THE FUTURE OF SOLID WASTE LAWS

RRWM deals with lots of waste that can't be recycled. EPR laws can help us address the issues with these hard-to-handle materials. Some of the products that we can't easily recycle include:

- Textiles
- Solar Panels
- Electronic Smoking Devices
- Electronic Medical Devices

There are many more products that are difficult to manage at the end of their useful life. Santa Barbara County actively supports and encourages the development of new laws that improve the disposal systems for these materials.

Learn more about solid waste "EPR" laws and how they affect residents and businesses at www.LessIsMore.org/EPR



### SB 54, NO MORE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS?

In 2022, California passed SB 54, a landmark bill that requires all single-use packaging to be recyclable or compostable by 2032, and requires that the packaging industry be responsible for funding related packaging changes and new disposal systems, as needed. This is one of the largest wasterelated bills in California history! The law is still being drafted as of late 2025. Santa Barbara County is excited to see how SB 54 will improve single-use packaging recycling and composting in our region



Visit www.LessIsMore.org for more information.

# **LOW-WASTE LIVING IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

While "zero waste" goals are admirable, an absolutely zero-waste lifestyle isn't realistic or possible for many folks. That's why we like to encourage "low-waste" living.

### TIP 1: BE AWARE OF "GREEN WASHING"

Businesses know that sustainability sells.

- False Recyclability Claims: The "recyclable" and "compostable" labels are still not well regulated. A producer can put that label on anything they want. Refer to page 25 to know what is really recyclable in Santa Barbara County. In addition, some businesses tout recycling programs that don't exist widely (we see you, "recyclable" coffee pods!).
- Eco-Friendly Images: Single-use water bottles are notorious for showing nature scenes on their cases. These items are still single-use! It's much better for these natural landscapes to opt for a reusable water bottle.
- Fancy Buzzwords and Packaging Materials: Retailers use
  words like "sustainable," "planet friendly," or "biodegradable,"
  when a product is not. Some items are encased in recyclable
  cardboard to appear to be an eco-alternative, but are lined
  with plastic inside, which makes the entire product unable to
  be recycled.

### **TIP 2: THINK DURABLE**

When making your next purchase, buy it for life (or at least for a while!). Materials like metal and glass are more durable than plastics. Glass or metal water bottles, serving ware, and food storage containers will last longer than their plastic alternatives. Similarly, high quality clothing, shoes, and furniture that are made to last reduce the need to replace them as often. Just remember, items that are made to be reused, even if made of plastic or low-quality materials, are better than single-use items, so long as they're used multiple times!

### **TIP 3: SHOP SECONDHAND**

When you can, shop secondhand! Buying secondhand helps reduce the resources needed to create new products. You're buying something that already exists! Plus, secondhand purchases can be good to our wallets. Donate what you no longer use to save even more waste from the landfill. Help complete the loop!

### **TIP 4: REPAIR**

When something's broken, fix it! Take broken computers to a local computer repair shop, teach yourself sewing to fix torn clothes, or give scratched furniture a new coat of paint. There are so many ways to give items new life and to save from needing to buy new. You might even learn a new skill while you're at it.

### **TIP 5: LEARN**

If you're unsure what bin something goes in, want to know how an item is recycled, or are questioning what disposal options are near you, ask! "Wishcycling," or putting an item into your recycling bin without knowing if it is truly recyclable in your area, can do more harm than good. This can cause contamination and prevent your recyclables from actually getting recycled. RRWM is happy to help.

Call us at (805) 882-3600 or visit us online at www.LessIsMore.org.



# **NOVEMBER**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
]	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daylight Saving Time Ends	It's American Indian Heritage Month!	Election Day				
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30					

Endless waste reduction tips are available on RRWM's website. Simply type in any material you have questions about in the search bar, or peruse the "Reduce & Reuse" tab.

www.LessIsMore.org

# CHECK OUT YOUR LOCAL THRIFT!

### **SOUTH COUNTY**

**Alpha Resource Centers** Goleta & Santa Barbara

Community Friends of SB Santa Barbara

Goodwill Industries
Carpinteria & Santa Barbara

**Santa Barbara Thrifty Shopper** Santa Barbara

**United Family Association Thrift**Santa Barbara

**Unity Shoppe** Santa Barbara

### **NORTH COUNTY**

Achievement House Lompoc & Santa Maria

**Buellton Senior Thrift Shop**Buellton

Central Coast Super Thrift Store Santa Maria

Goodwill Industries Lompoc, Orcutt & Santa Maria

**New Image Thrift Store** Santa Maria

**New To You Shop** Solvang

People Helping People Thrift Store Buellton

Santa Ynez Valley Opportunity Shop Santa Ynez



# THE THREE Rs AND BEYOND

To reduce your waste, the three Rs are a great start. Just remember that it's Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, in that order! The most impact will be made by Reducing what you consume. Then, Reuse what already exists. Lastly, Recycle what you can. Here are some more tips on the famous Rs...and three bonus Rs!

### **REFUSE**

Simply refuse waste in the first place. You can respectfully reject free swag items you know will gather dust, say no to hand-me-downs that you know you'll end up donating, or prevent impulse buys. Refusing eliminates the need for the next Rs.

### **REDUCE**

Reducing helps us practice using only what we need. This is one of the most important parts of a low-waste lifestyle. Reduce your waste generation by investing in reusables, being selective about what purchases you make, and using what you already have.

### REUSE

Reduce and Reuse go hand-in-hand. Make the switch to reusables to help reduce your waste. Donating to and shopping at secondhand stores are some of the best ways to practice Reuse. Also, try reusing what you have. You don't need bamboo travel utensils to show that you are eco-friendly. You can Reuse the silverware you already have and DIY a case to your liking.

### **REPURPOSE**

Find new life in items that may not work for their original purpose. For example, turn old t-shirts into rags, use old bottles for plant starters, or craft a mosaic out of broken plates and bowls. In any case, get creative!

### **RECYCLE**

Recycling is beneficial; however, it still has a high environmental impact. This is why Recycling is late in the list of Rs. Become an expert Recycler and learn about what's Recyclable in your area. And remember, some items can be recycled, just not in your curbside bin. Reach out to RRWM to learn about Recycling options for these hard-to-handle items.

### **ROT**

Rot — it's like Recycling, but for organic waste! Yard waste, food scraps, and soiled paper are all organic waste. Learn about your local organics recycling system on page 7 and 8. You can Rot at home by starting a backyard composting project! Learn more on pages 15-20.











QUICK TIP: Audit your waste over a week (or more!), and see what you're throwing away. Take what you learn and use the Rs to reduce waste where you can.

# **DECEMBER**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
						Hanukkah Begins
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa
27	28	29	30	31		

New Year's Eve

# THE FINAL "L": LANDFILL

When something can no longer be reused or can't be recycled, it will go into the landfill. Once it goes to the landfill, it's there forever. We need the community's help to keep as much as we can out of our limited landfill space. By utilizing the Rs listed above we:

- Reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions
- Conserve natural resources and energy
- Preserve landfill space
- Foster recycling and compost markets
- Reduce the environmental impacts of producing new goods

Landfills are made to encapsulate waste and make sure it doesn't impact the surrounding environment. They are one of the most highly engineered municipal facilities. Santa Barbara County staff work around the clock to make sure our landfills are safe for the public and the environment.



Learn more about the Tajiguas Landfill at www.LesslsMore.org/Trash.



# **CLOSING THE LOOP**

In modern resource recovery and waste management, our goal is to close the loop. Closing the loop means to use a product, then repurpose or recycle it into the same product. A great example of this is composting. By composting our food scraps, we can create fertilizer to help grow more food. This cycle can continue indefinitely, which is very different from how many products are made and disposed of today. The current linear model of product creation and disposal puts an unsustainable demand on resources and leads to exponential generation of waste.

We can expand the idea of circularity even further. What would our world look like if we created a circular economy? Extended Producer Responsibility and Product Stewardship laws help us get a little closer to this idea. Learn more on pages 31 and 32.

In addition, recycling comes in many shapes and sizes. True recycling means that we can take one item and recycle it into that same exact item. Metal and glass can be recycled over and over again. Other items can be upcycled or downcycled as described below.

### **UPCYCLING**

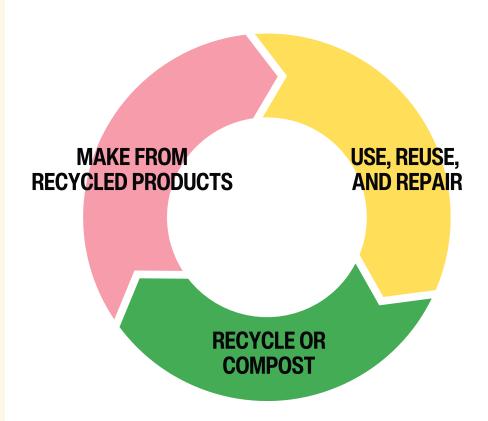
Upcycling is any process where an item is turned into something of higher value at the end of its useful life. Upcycling examples include many DIY projects such as creating planters from jars or turning old t-shirts into a quilt. At RRWM, we upcycle construction and demolition debris into road base materials!

### **DOWNCYCLING**

Downcycling is when an item is turned into something less valuable at the end of its life. For example, paper can only be downcycled. This is because the recycling process damages the paper fibers. Printer paper is recycled into cardboard, which is then recycled into tissues, toilet paper, or egg cartons. This is still better than going to the landfill!

### **LINEAR VS. CIRCULAR SYSTEMS**





### RRWM & OUR LANDFILL GO DEEP!

Landfills are more than what you see on the surface. These facilities are composed of a highly engineered series of layers. The layers work together to protect the health of people, animals, and the environment. The illustration below is a simplified version of a landfill (and isn't to scale). It can help us understand what is happening below the surface.

The base of a landfill (the cow spot pattern below) is a thick layer of clay. Then, there is a membrane layer that holds everything in. Next comes a series of intricate piping and membranes that help us collect any liquids and gases from our trash. It's not shown in the picture, but these systems actually move in all directions throughout the

landfill to ensure that we prevent all liquids and gases from ever escaping the landfill. We call the liquid collected from a landfill "leachate."

Trash is buried over and within these gas and leachate collection systems. Every day, the trash that was added to the landfill is buried under six inches of dirt or other waste products, like ground up construction and demolition debris. This layer is called "alternative daily cover." New trash is added on top, and the layers continue to grow!

It doesn't end there. Once collected, the gas from our landfill (the Tajiguas Landfill) is safely burned and used as biofuel to power 3,000 local homes through a partnership with our electricity provider.

### **COLOR ME!**

Send in a scanned copy or photo of your finished coloring sheet to lessismoresb@ countyofsb.org and we'll post it on LessIsMore.org.



### SOME THINGS NEED A LITTLE TLC

By TLC, we mean Tailored Local Collection! It is ILLEGAL and DANGEROUS to put hazardous waste or electronics in your curbside collection containers. These materials need special collection programs to ensure that they're recycled or disposed of safely and properly.

Hazardous waste collection facilities are conveniently located throughout the County. Nearly all residential hazardous waste drop-off sites are completely free of charge, whereas businesses need to pay for their hazardous waste disposal.

The items depicted in the image to the right are commonly found in homes and need TLC. Motor oil, paint, paint thinner, solvents, household cleaners, pool chemicals, automotive fluids, batteries and fluorescent light bulbs can't go into your curbside bins.

Once collected, these items are taken to hazardous waste disposal facilities. These facilities have strict standards to make sure all of these materials are handled properly, and spills and other dangerous situations are avoided. As mentioned on page 21, many of these items can be recycled or repurposed (just not in your curbside containers).

RRWM understands that some folks come across unique hazardous wastes that don't fit the common categories. Call our hazardous waste line at (805) 882-3602 for specific questions. Trust us, we've seen it all! And if we haven't, we'll work with you to figure it out.

### **COLOR ME!**

Send in a scanned copy or photo of your finished coloring sheet to lessismoresb@ countyofsb.org and we'll post it on LessIsMore.org.



**ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLYN HABERLIN** 

### 

There are over 600 locations listed on LessIsMore.org that offer some sort of repair, reuse, or disposal service for everyday items. Instead of listing them all here, we decided to give you a snapshot of some of the most common items and the most frequented facilities. Visit us online at www.LessIsMore.org or call us at (805) 882-3600 for information on a specific facility. Always call ahead to confirm operating hours and whether your item will be accepted. Contact information is listed on the back of this page.



All Household Hazardous Wastes (ABOPs, Batteries, Pesticides, Solvents, Cleaning Chemicals, etc.)

ABOP Materials (Antifreeze, Automotive Batteries, Motor Oil & Filters, Latex Paint)



Nopalitos, David Love Place, Commerce & Betteravia

MarBorg C&D Facility

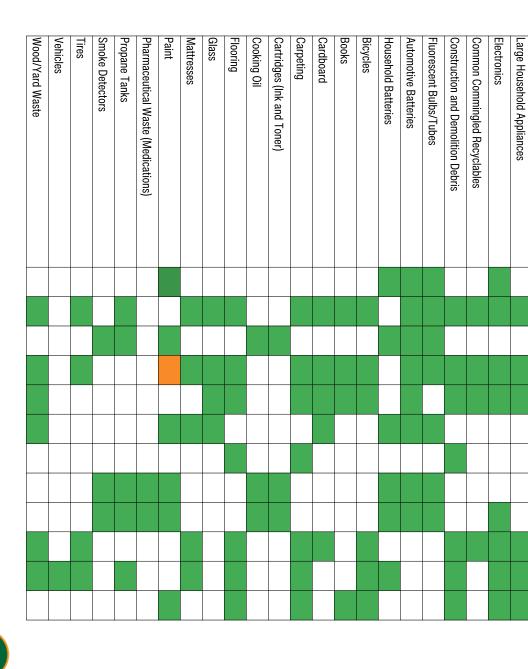
Santa Maria Household

Hazardous Waste Facility Lompoc Hazardous Waste Collection Center

Santa Maria Landfill

Lompoc Landfill

If Reusable, Donate It!







### >-8

# **SOLID WASTE COLLECTION CONTACTS**

For general questions on solid waste programs, please call your local government offices. Questions about scheduling bulky item pick-ups or curbside services should be directed to your waste hauler.

### **Franchised Waste Haulers**

E. J. Harrison & Sons	(805) 647-1414
MarBorg Industries	(805) 963-1852
Waste Management	(805) 922-2121

### Cities

City of Buellton	(805) 686-0137
City of Carpinteria	(805) 684-5405
City of Goleta	(805) 961-7500
City of Guadalupe	(805) 343-1340
City of Lompoc	(805) 875-8024
City of Santa Barbara	(805) 564-5631
City of Santa Maria	(805) 925-0951 x 7270
City of Solvang	(805) 688-5575
Vandenberg Space Force Base	(805) 606-2359

### **Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division Program Specific Contacts**

General Office Line	(805) 882-3600
Hazardous Waste	(805) 882-3602
Electronics, Sharps and Pharmaceuticals,	
Mattresses, and Edible Food Recovery	(805) 882-3603
Backyard Composting	(805) 882-3624
Curbside Recyclables and Organic Waste Collection	(805) 882-3618

### **REUSE AND REPAIR**

Don't rush to dispose of something if it's broken. Many things can be repaired by local experts. In addition, if an item is still in good condition, try donating it. LessIsMore.org has many resources on this but you can still peruse sites like Google and Yelp to find exactly what you need. There are many online secondhand markets as well, including:

- Poshmark and ThredUp: Online resale markets for new and used clothing and home wares.
- Craigslist, eBay, OfferUp, Mercari, and Facebook Marketplace: Online resale markets for everything from vehicles to toys.

You can also buy refurbished or "open box" electronics, appliances, furniture, etc., from most retailers. If they don't advertise it, just ask! All of these shopping strategies help reduce impacts on the planet and our wallets.

### **CONTACT US**



Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division of Santa Barbara County Public Works

130 E. Victoria Street, Suite 100 Santa Barbara, California 93101

**Phone**: (805) 882-3600

Email: LessIsMoreSB@CountyOfSB.org





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