

ZEROWASTE

Santa Cruz County
GreenWaste Recovery

News

A publication for County of Santa Cruz GreenWaste Recovery
Commercial Customers

Fall 2024

PLANNING AHEAD

Nation's toughest rules for single-use packaging and plastic recycling

Packaging makes up more than 50% of what California throws away. "This growing source of trash ends up in our landfills or, too often, polluting our most vulnerable communities," said Yana Garcia, California's Secretary for Environmental Protection. "That's why California is taking nation-leading action to hold plastic producers accountable, protect our environment and communities, and build solutions to deliver on the promise of recycling."

California's Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (SB 54) establishes the nation's strongest requirements for producers to cut disposable plastic packaging and food ware, and then recycle the rest. This landmark law requires that by 2032, industry must:

- Sell 25% less single-use plastic packaging and food ware in the state.
- Make all single-use packaging and plastic food ware recyclable or compostable.
- Recycle 65% of single-use plastic packaging and food ware.

The law also creates a fund that will raise \$5 billion from industry members for the state to address plastic pollution in communities most impacted by plastic pollution.



CHARGE FOR CUPS

Any business, person, event, food truck or other entity (including both permanent and temporary facilities) which sells or provides hot or cold beverages in a single-use disposable cup must charge an additional twenty-five cents (\$0.25) for each cup.

- Businesses may not waive or absorb cup charges.
- Cup charges must be displayed on any receipt provided.
- Cup charges are not taxable.
- Cup charges are shared with the business and the County of Santa Cruz. For more information, contact the Santa Cruz County Treasurer Tax Collector at **831.454.2510**.
- All to-go food service ware must be recyclable or compostable, as certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI).



RETAILER COOPERATIVE RECYCLING SITES

While California's beverage container redemption program recycles nearly 19 billion containers a year, some neighborhoods have fewer places to redeem their California Redemption Value (CRV) deposits because of changes over the last few years, including:

- Rising business costs
- More beverages sold in plastic containers with little scrap value, instead of more profitable aluminum
- Local siting or permitting restrictions

To make recycling more convenient, SB 1013 gives beverage retailers located in areas with no recycling centers the choice to

either redeem in-store, or join a cooperative recycling program. The law removes the option for retailers to pay a \$100 daily fee instead of redeeming.

If a certified recycling center or obligated beverage retailer fails to redeem as required, you can file a formal complaint with CalRecycle by calling **1-800-RECYCLE** or emailing **complaints@calrecycle.ca.gov**. Non-

compliant businesses face CalRecycle inspections and administrative fines of up to \$5,000 per violation.



Several Beverage Container Recycling Program improvements are scheduled for Jan. 1, 2025 to give Californians more ways to redeem their deposits.

Beverage retailers (over 5,000 sq ft or more than \$1.5 million annual sales, excluding fuel) in convenience zones without a recycling center will no longer have the option to pay a fee to not redeem.

Starting on that date, retailers required to redeem will have to either:

1. Redeem CRV containers in store, or
2. Join a nonprofit retailer cooperative that redeems on their behalf.

Locally, our Ben Lomond Transfer Station will be closing June 30, 2025.

HOLIDAY PICKUP SCHEDULE

Collection does not occur on Thanksgiving Day November 28, Christmas Day December 25, or New Year's Day January 1. If an observed holiday falls on a regular collection day, collection for the remainder of the week will be delayed by one day. Please put your carts out for service by 5 a.m. on the collection day. For more information, please contact GreenWaste Customer Service at **831.426.2711**.



NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
22	23	24	25	26	27	29



JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

HOLIDAY TREE RECYCLING

Single-family residential customers of GreenWaste Recovery can recycle your evergreen tree curbside on your regular service day, January 2-24, 2025.

- Remove all tinsel, decorations and non-wood stands
- No flocked trees (fake snow), please!
- Cut trees to 6-foot lengths

Multi-family residential and commercial customers can request curbside tree pickup by calling Customer Service at **831.426.2711**.

Thank you for recycling your holiday trees!

