



Spread the Love!

Cut out and color these fun recycling Valentines to give to your friends and family on February 14! Head to RecycleSmart.org/newsletter-winter-2025 for more festive print-outs!



1850 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 320
Walnut Creek, CA 94596



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- How'd we do? Reports from your bins
- Sticking to it: Re-up your resolutions
- Saying buh-bye to plastics around Contra Costa

ReThink single-use plastics

Restaurants all over Central Contra Costa County have been rethinking their single-use packaging and plastics with the help of ReThink Disposable!

Corner of Brazil in Danville started using reusable foodware for dine-in customers and is expected to save around \$2,600 every year! "Before implementing the reusables, we regularly had overflowing trash," said Corner of Brazil owner Nickolas Guido. "Now, it's not only no longer overflowing, but we have already seen a reduction in full trash bags by at least one bag a week!"

Casa Orinda was already using reusable dishes, but when they replaced their disposable plastic sauce cups with reusable stainless-steel ones, they were able to stop purchasing and disposing of an average of 300 single-use sauce cups per day (or 6,000+ per month).

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church reported that their two women's ministries have loved the switch to reusables and have used them for events like a high school concert reception and a memorial service. They plan to gradually phase-in reusables to replace disposables in more meetings, services, and events.

In addition to the ones above, these other restaurants have also partnered with ReThink Disposable: **La Chamba Taqueria** (Moraga), **Lou's Chicken Shop** (Moraga), **Los Panchos Restaurant** (Danville), **Nilo Restaurant** (Danville), **Blue Sakana Blackhawk** (Blackhawk), **Pennini's** (Moraga) and **Brown Butter** (Blackhawk).

Don't see your favorite restaurant or business on the list? RecycleSmart has funding available to help them join the Reuse Revolution. Have them reach out to us at Authority@RecycleSmart.org.



Claudia Tata, General Manager at Casa Orinda

Get Featured in RecycleSmart!

Calling all households! We're looking for local recyclers to feature in our 2025 newsletters, and **YOU** can be one of them!

We want to partner with households who want to practice better composting and recycling habits in the new year and share their journey in the upcoming newsletters.

To get the conversation started, all you have to do is email us at Authority@RecycleSmart.org with the subject line "Recycle Smarter," and let us know why you want to work with us. If selected, we will collaborate with your household throughout the year on recycling and composting best practices—you'll be the best-informed and most prepared home in the neighborhood (or complex) in no time!

We'll accept inquiries through March. We can't wait to hear from you!

Hello 🗋️ I'm a talking recycling bin! Text me your item and I'll tell you which bin it goes in.



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APARTMENTS AND CONDOS EDITION

WINTER 2025

Reinforcing the resolution

Make Reuse Part of Your Resolution!

New Year's Eve may have come and gone, but you can still stay resolute with your resolutions—especially if they help reduce your eco-footprint!

One way to stay on track with your New Year's goal of reducing waste is reuse. Whether you're repurposing a worn-out t-shirt as a work rag, fixing an old bike or discovering that a thrift-shop vintage dress is much cooler than a new fast-fashion one you found online, there are tons of ways to give new life to old stuff.

Think Before You Toss or Buy New:

- When shopping for household goods, look for opportunities to buy refillable soap and detergent, and reusable alternatives to paper products like cloth napkins and dish towels to reduce waste.
- Instead of buying new clothes, go thrifting! You can find some great one-of-a-kind options that are still in good condition.
- When appliances break down, consider repairing them—our new "Reuse, Repair and Thrift" tool can get you started: RecycleSmart.org/reuse

By supporting local waste prevention efforts, we can protect the environment and save money in the process. Let's make a difference together!



KEEP IT LOCAL, KEEP IT GREEN

Did You Know? Our website, RecycleSmart.org offers a helpful resource list of local businesses and organizations that are leading the way in waste reduction. The list includes options for repair services, donation centers, thrift and consignment shops.

Visit today: RecycleSmart.org/reuse



We're wheel excited for the new year

RecycleSmart.org





Save the planet in your kitchen

Reducing the amount of organic material, such as food scraps and uncoated food soiled paper sent to landfill is part of California's SB1383 law.

Composting your organics reduces greenhouse gas emissions and helps meet our statewide 75% landfill diversion goal! To help with this effort, here are some ways you can keep organics from ending up in landfills:

- **Reduce your food waste:** Making a shopping list or using all the leftovers in your fridge before buying more food or eating out can help reduce your food waste.

- **Sort your materials:** As you clear your plate, see what can be composted. RecycleSmart's green cart guide is a great way to get started: RecycleSmart.org/apts-green-bin

- **Request a kitchen food scraps container:** Residents can call Republic Services at **925-685-4711** to request a kitchen food scraps container at no cost every two years.

Want to do more? Visit the Food Waste and Recovery page on our website to find local food recovery organizations and services to donate food or to volunteer: RecycleSmart.org/food-recovery

Get Thrifty with It!

Make thrifting a part of your New Year's resolution! Shopping secondhand is a great way for you to find unique and one-of-a-kind clothing and household items. Plus, it helps divert items from going to landfill. Thrift stores, vintage markets, even online at Facebook Marketplace or Craigslist have tons of treasures waiting for you. Or, you can be the one to give the next unique find by donating your gently used items to your local thrift store. It's a win-win!



Waste not, want not

Give your black bin a break

When items are not properly sorted and end up in the landfill, it's a waste of valuable resources. We've gathered a list of common materials that end up in the black landfill bin to show you which cart they **should** go in to:



ROUTE REVIEW RESULTS ARE IN

In 2024, RecycleSmart completed residential and multifamily cart audits. Our auditors did "lid flips" to find out what kinds of contaminants—materials that do not belong—were the most common in each cart.

The team found a lot of missed opportunities for recycling and composting in the black landfill carts,

including food scraps and uncoated food-soiled paper which belong in the green organics cart, and jugs, tubs and bottles which belong in the blue recycling cart.

To read more about what the auditors found, visit RecycleSmart.org/newsletter-winter-2025

Need More Info?



Editor, Janna McKay
Janna@RecycleSmart.org

For tips, resources and other recycling services!

www.RecycleSmart.org
925-906-1801
Authority@RecycleSmart.org



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Organics, Recycling and Landfill

925-685-4711

Ask your property manager to contact Republic Services about additional recycling, organic and landfill carts or bins, special clean ups or to request motor oil recycling kits, recycling tote bags and kitchen food scrap containers.

This newsletter is recyclable!

My Resolution



Resolutions for All

What's your resolution this new year? Making sure all your recyclables are empty, clean and dry? Being a better sorter when it comes to food scraps? Committing to one sustainable switch this year (goodbye, plastic straws!)?

Whatever it is, now is the time to commit! Gather your household and think of three resolutions you want to achieve this year. Write them down in the space below and post your list up in a place everyone can see it:

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-
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Remember, resolutions take time. Keep at it and don't get discouraged. You got this!



HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?
Send your ideas to
Authority@RecycleSmart.org