

Sustainable Benician

News on Community Recycling & Waste Services



Sustainability in Action



Time to get ready for your spring garden!

Add compost and nourish your soil. Consider planting an extra row for Food is Free Bay Area or The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano.

Free Compost Giveaway
Saturday, March 28, 9am-1 pm

Alvarez Ninth Street Park, Benicia

- Bring your own containers (8 x 5-gallon buckets work best).
- No bags please.
- For Benicia Residents only and by appointment to reduce waiting time.

For instructions and to sign up, visit: RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA and look for the "Compost Giveaway" signup button.

Have questions? Want to be added to the reminder email blast? Contact MKnutson@RepublicServices.com

Happy Gardening!



FREE CLASS

How to Attract Beneficial Earthworms to Your Garden

Heritage Presbyterian Church, 1400 E 2nd St., Benicia
 Wednesday, April 8, 6-7:30 pm

Register at SustainableSolano.org See events

Attracting earthworms to a garden improves soil health by enhancing aeration, increasing drainage, and boosting nutrient levels. Join Lori Caldwell, the "Compost Gal", to learn how to attract these beneficial creatures to your garden to improve soil and grow stronger flowers, vegetables, and herbs. First 20 registered attendees receive a gift.

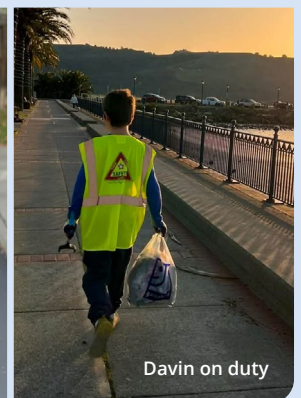
Earth Day is April 22nd

Earth Day Cleanup in Benicia
 April 18, 2026, from 8-11 a.m.

More information at:
ci.benicia.ca.us/stormwater



Davin was proud of his Halloween costume with vest from his organics driver, Dustin Graham



Davin on duty

Special Shout Out to Benicia Litter Picker, Davin, and his mom Kate McFaul who picked up 42 lbs. of trash in January. His older brother helped too. They went on a trash walk every couple days in their neighborhood, or sometimes the Southampton area, City Hall area, and First Street. Kate said "Davin loves the trash walks and takes being in charge of his neighborhood seriously." Thank you, Davin and family for your hard work and for caring about the environment!

PROTECTING OUR PLANET STARTS WITH YOU



BIKE MORE DRIVE LESS



EDUCATE

When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.



Volunteer!

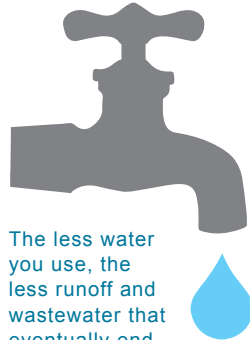
Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed too!



reduce REUSE recycle

Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R's" to conserve natural resources and landfill space.

CONSERVE WATER



The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.

choose sustainable



seafood

Learn how to make smart seafood choices at www.FishWatch.gov.

Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.



PLANT A TREE



Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.



Don't send chemicals into our waterways.

Choose nontoxic chemicals in the home and office.



Long-lasting light bulbs - ARE A - BRIGHT IDEA

Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!



oceanservice.noaa.gov

Join Our Annual Food Forest Tour

Are you interested in growing your own food or want to replace your lawn with a more sustainable landscape? Do not miss out on the chance to tour local community gardens and our demonstration edible gardens fed by secondary water (roof water and/or laundry-to-landscape greywater system) in Benicia and Vallejo.

Learn simple techniques that you can apply to your own yard to create a vibrant, food-producing ecosystem using water wisely. Choose to tour the whole day or half a day. Register at SustainableSolano.org.

Benicia Demonstration Food Forest Gardens

Saturday, April 25 from 10-1 pm

Vallejo Demonstration Food Forest Gardens

Saturday, April 25 from 1-4 pm

Great job, Scouts!

Thank you for recycling your Christmas Trees and expired tree lights. The Scouts chipped **705 trees**. With an average of **21,1378 lbs.** per tree, the total average weight collected was over **14,902 lbs.** or close to **7.5 tons**. Republic Services collected expired tree lights at the Museum of History, Benicia tree lot and 80 lbs. of lights were diverted from the landfill.



Fighting Plastic Waste

Effective January 1, 2026, California's Senate Bill 1053 **bans all plastic carryout bags**, including "thick" reusable plastic bags, at grocery stores, retail pharmacies, and convenience stores. Stores may only provide recycled paper bags for a minimum 10-cent fee, marking a major effort to reduce single-use plastic waste.

Ordering food delivered or picking up a quick meal? If you are taking it home, remember to tell the restaurant to **NOT GIVE YOU SINGLE-USE PLASTIC UTENSILS**. **Single-use plastic utensil bans and only offered "by request" laws are increasing to combat plastic pollution.** California (AB 1276) began in 2022 and mandates that utensils, straws, and condiments only be provided upon request.



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