



Reducing Waste



Let's talk trash

We can work together to lessen the amount of waste we produce by making smart decisions about the products we buy, use, and dispose of.

- Carry a reusable drink container
- Forgo disposable paper products
- Wrap gifts in reusable material
- Buy products that use less packaging
- Fix items that break instead of replacing them
- Sell, donate, or repurpose products you no longer use
- Recycle items when possible

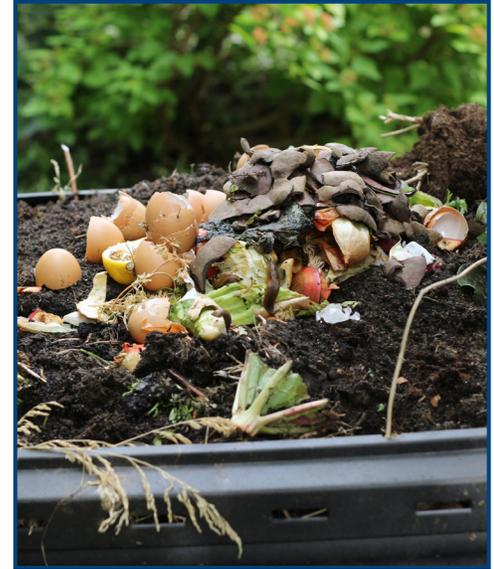


Activity #1

Appreciate the beauty of something old by turning it into something new.

Go on a scavenger hunt to find something around the house that you no longer use. Turn it into a toy, a birdhouse, or a decoration.

Examples: turn a skateboard into a shelf, make a hanging mobile out of clothes hangers, create a flower bouquet out of toilet paper rolls, use bike parts to create a steampunk lamp, make a picture out of old magazines.



Activity #2

Turn food trash into nutritious soil by creating a compost bin.

Collect food waste (except meat and dairy) in a closed bin. Add leaves, sticks, and grass clippings to the mix. Turn compost every few days.

In several months, your compost will produce a rich soil you can use for planting.



Saving Water & Energy



Conserve water

Water sustains life, and it is our responsibility to use our limited water supply wisely and care for this precious resource properly.

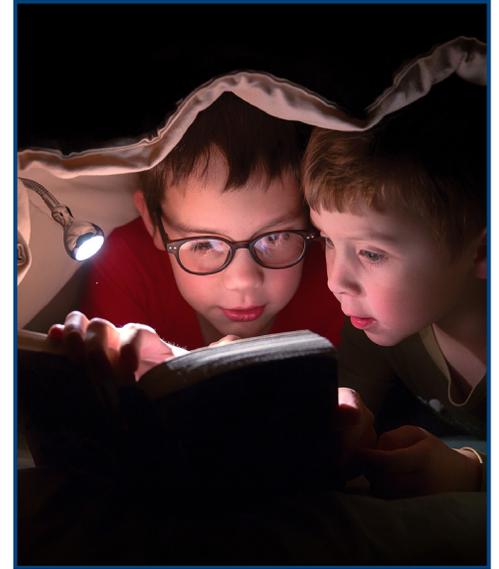
- Turn the water off while brushing teeth and washing hands
- Take shorter showers
- Recycle water from house for garden
- Wash your car with a bucket, not a hose, or go to a carwash that uses recycled water
- Plant California native perennials (require less water)
- Check for leaks in toilets, under sinks, and in irrigation system



Conserve energy

Conserving energy reduces carbon emissions, improves air quality, saves money on energy bills, and protects non-renewable energy reserves.

- Switch to LED light bulbs
- Unplug electronics when not in use
- Plant trees for shade
- Make sure your walls and attic are well insulated
- Purchase low energy appliances
- Upgrade or replace windows with energy efficient models
- Install whole house fan to use less air conditioning in summer



Activity #1

Enjoy a no electricity night. Play charades by candlelight. Use a flashlight to read books or make shadow puppets. Sit outside and tell scary stories. Unplug for one night and have fun without electricity.

Activity #2

Make a family pledge to save water. Write down what you will do, using some of the ideas on this page. Make posters for the bathroom, kitchen, and yard to remind everyone about the pledge.