



FROM THE EDITOR

The new school year is underway, and students across the county are already back in the day-to-day routine of their studies, after-school activities, and hanging out with friends. We hope that routine also includes the 4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot!

In this issue of *Journeys to Zero Waste*, you'll find resources for doing all four of these.

Parents, you'll find out how to pack a zero-waste lunch for your kids. Teachers, you'll see free resources for bringing zero-waste programming into your classrooms.

Recology is here to help make this school year the best yet!



RSBC mechanic Phil Slykas installs a winning poster on a Recology truck last year.

Time to Get Creative

Get out your calendar because the 2024 Art Poster Contest is just around the corner. This year's theme is Healthy Soils.

Recology's annual contest features the artwork of 15 winners on our trucks for an entire year!



Two of the 15 winning posters from the 2023 contest were created by kindergartner Kenalyse H. (left) and fifth-grader Eli G.

Winners also receive a prize package and are recognized by elected officials and other community dignitaries at the annual Earth Day event.

The 2024 contest deadline is March 15. Send an email request to SBCWZ@Recology.com to be put on a list for future notifications, including detailed guidelines and an entry form.

We can't wait to see your posters!



Zero Wastingly,

Recology Waste Zero Team

Brian, Gabbie, Shana, and Lisa

CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM!

Se habla español

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Messages left after hours will be returned the next business day.

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BACK TO SCHOOL HELPERS



RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

Every year Recology San Benito County sponsors outreach to schools and other youth-related groups. This can take many forms, depending on what teachers, parents, and students are looking for.



Following are just a few options:

- Assemblies for small groups or the entire school. Members of our team can come out and do fun 4R-focused —

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot — activities, or you can host a performance by a professional “edutainment” group.

- In-class poster-making workshops in the spring. The resulting artwork could be submitted for the Art Poster Contest.
- Our Recology coloring book...and more!

RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH SBCIWM

Did you know San Benito County offers lots of resources for schools? The county’s Integrated Waste Management department has a great team eager to provide all of the following at no cost:

- Waste Assessments
- Recycling Containers
- Signage

Email SBCIWM@cosb.us or call 831.636.4110 for more information.



County staff members like Laurie Tankersley can provide recycling containers like these for your school!

MAKE IT A ZERO-WASTE LUNCH PLEASE

Packing a zero-waste lunch is easier and less expensive than you might think, especially once you get a system in place.



Here are five tips to help you get started:

- 1 **Buy reusable bags and wrappers** for sandwiches and snacks. A wide variety of products are available — from plastic bags you can clean in the dishwasher to beeswax-coated wrappers.
- 2 **Pack real utensils.** These can be stainless steel, bamboo, or plastic. Some come with their own carrying case and most are dishwasher safe.
- 3 **Use cloth napkins.** Find them online or make your own using fun fabric prints. (Pro tip: If sewing isn’t your thing, use pinking shears to help ensure the edges don’t fray.)
- 4 **Individual servings** of snacks, dips, fruit, and desserts often come in single-use plastic containers. Instead, **buy these items in bulk** and put them into your own reusable bags and containers. This also saves money because single servings tend to cost more than buying in bulk.
- 5 **Put water, juice, and other drinks in a reusable bottle** or Thermos™. Such a simple act could eliminate hundreds of plastic bottles per year.

Source: EarthFriendlyTips.com