



## FROM THE WASTE ZERO TEAM

April is Earth Month, and there's no better place to celebrate than in green, spacious San Benito County!

The blue skies, soaring birds, and abundant fields remind us daily of the many gifts we receive from Mother Earth.

This year's official Earth Day theme is "Plastics vs. Planet."

Here at Recology, we know a lot about plastics — the good and the bad. Although some plastics, like #1 (PET) and #2 (HDPE), are readily recyclable, others are harder to find markets for. And when it comes to film plastics, they are virtually unrecyclable. That's why we ask our customers always to put plastic bags, shrink wrap, and similar items in their garbage carts.

You'll find more about how to celebrate Earth Month and reduce plastics at home, at work, and at play in this issue of *Journeys to Zero Waste*.

Your Waste Zero Team,



Shana, Lisa, Val, and Adrian

## Beyond the Curb: Reusables!



**Kayle Rosas and Joseph Ramirez are seen here at To Pho, one of several Hollister restaurants that welcome reusable containers for to-go orders.**

Leading a reusable lifestyle may sound daunting, but the truth is, you can start making it happen today!

How? Focus on items you can keep with you when you're out and about — things you can stash in your car, backpack, or purse — that will reduce your environmental footprint when eating out. Think to-go containers, reusable utensil kits, reusable straws, and canvas grocery bags.

You can find many of these reusable items at your local big

box store, market, or online. When searching for products online, some useful keywords are "reusable," "sustainable," and "zero waste." Even better, go to a local source like [Before1907.com](https://www.before1907.com).

To learn more about reusables and other ways to reduce waste, see the story about Resilient Central Coast on page 2 of this issue of *Journeys*.

### FRIENDLY REMINDER:

### PLASTIC BAGS, FILM PLASTICS

### GO IN THE TRASH!

Please put plastic bags and film plastics in your gray garbage cart.

Why? Film plastics don't have reliable markets. On top of that, they tangle the recycling equipment, which can be costly and dangerous.

NOTE: Recyclables can be put in a clear plastic bag in your blue cart, but we prefer bottles, cans and paper recyclables to be loose.



## CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM!

Se habla español

[f](https://www.facebook.com/RecologySanBenitoCounty) [i](https://www.instagram.com/RecologySanBenitoCounty) @RecologySanBenitoCounty

Recology San Benito County  
1351 Pacheco Pass Hwy  
Gilroy, CA 95020

[Recology.com/SanBenitoCounty](https://www.Recology.com/SanBenitoCounty)

831.636.7500, M – F, 8 AM – 5 PM

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

[CustomerService055@Recology.com](mailto:CustomerService055@Recology.com)





## Partner Spotlight: Resilient Central Coast

Resilient Central Coast (RCC) is a group of local communities that have joined forces to take on the challenges of climate change. RCC aims to engage 500,000 Central Coast households to cut our emissions in half by 2030.

Join in this fun, educational, and purposeful game-based project. After signing up, you'll work through specific actions like "Say no to plastic straws" assigned a level of difficulty, from easy to challenging. Many of them save money as well as reduce your carbon footprint!

We have our own page for our county called Resilient San Benito! Find it here: [ResilientSanBenito.org/](https://ResilientSanBenito.org/)

For those of you with a competitive spirit, you can earn points and try to beat your friends and neighbors. Better yet, start a neighborhood team and challenge another neighborhood. Congrats to Sunnyslope for being the top-ranked neighborhood so far!

More San Benito residents are joining the challenge every day. May the greenest team win!

### KIDS' CORNER: Earth Day Fun!

San Benito County's annual Earth Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 20, from 11 AM – 2 PM on the Mission Plaza lawn in San Juan Bautista State Park.

The event will feature over 30 booths offering environmental programs, resources, and fun, interactive activities for all ages.

Don't miss the poster contest awards ceremony, where winners will be announced and receive their prizes! This event is like a birthday party for the planet, so come and celebrate!



### SPRING EVENTS



#### RECOLOGY'S ENVIRONMENTAL DAYS

Compost giveaway, free document shredding, and electronic-waste recycling. For more information, call Recology at [831.636.7500](tel:831.636.7500).

**April 6, 9 AM – 1 PM**, 2100 San Juan Hollister Road, Hollister

**April 13, 9 AM – 1 PM**, San Juan School, 100 Nyland Drive, San Juan Bautista

#### DOWNTOWN HOLLISTER SPRING CLEANUP

Help beautify downtown by pulling weeds, planting flowers, and painting where needed. Bring your own broom, dustpan, shovel, and work or garden gloves.

Call [831-696-8406](tel:831-696-8406) or email [events@downtownhollister.org](mailto:events@downtownhollister.org) to sign up.

**April 20, 8:30 – 11:30 AM**

#### SAN BENITO COUNTY'S RECYCLE DAY

Dispose of up to 15 gallons or 125 pounds of household hazardous waste. Locations to be determined.

Visit [COSB.us/IWM](https://COSB.us/IWM) or call [831.636.4110](tel:831.636.4110) for more information.

**May 25, 9 AM – 12 PM**

#### BULKY ITEM RECYCLING EVENTS

Limit of 2 bulky items per household per quarterly event. Bring ID to show proof of San Benito County residency.

**June 29-30, 9 AM – 3 PM**, John Smith Landfill, 2650 John Smith Road, Hollister