

**START HERE** *Ready to find new tools for your climate action journey?*



## FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

Preventing food waste, and the greenhouse gases it emits, is one of the most impactful ways individuals can combat climate change. Food waste prevention also saves upstream resources used in food production like transportation fuel, labor, energy, water, and land.

Solana Center offers free resources, workshops, webinars, and consultations to assist with food waste prevention and rescue – whether you are an individual looking to keep your groceries from going bad or a business looking to reduce waste and donate edible food that can't be sold.



## RECYCLING RESOURCES

Solana Center has a long history of recycling leadership, starting curbside recycling in San Diego County in 1983!

By reusing and recycling, we can lower the carbon footprint of items, reduce pollution, and prevent the harmful environmental effects that result from extraction of raw materials and the landfilling of toxic materials.

E- (electronics) and U- (batteries and light bulbs) waste are toxic and contain heavy metals that should NOT be put in the landfill. This waste constitutes only 2% of waste by weight in the landfill but accounts for 70% of the toxicity!

Today Solana Center is one of the only North County Coastal locations that collects E- and U-waste along with flimsy plastic recycling (plastic bags) offered via partnership with Plastic Beach. Brush up on your sorting skills with recycling education, presentations, and consulting offered throughout the County.



## WASTE REDUCTION RESOURCES

Solana Center offers waste reduction resources to encourage closed-loop communities and share economy. Visit our Climate Solutions Resource Center to check out programs like Green Convene, where you can rent dish-ware, glasses, and cutlery from us and reduce waste at your next social gathering or party. Solana Center also has a Tool Lending Library where you can borrow garden tools for your next project.

## SOIL REGENERATION

Feed generations to come by returning nutrients to the soil through compost and regenerative growing practices! Industrial agriculture and livestock practices contribute to emissions by disturbing carbon and overusing fertilizers (source: projectdrawdown.org).

Using compost has several benefits that include: better water and nutrient retention, reduced erosion, improved soil structure, lessened need for pesticides and fertilizers, and carbon sequestration. Learn to compost with Solana Center, whether in your own backyard, in your apartment, or on your farm.



## RESOURCE CONSERVATION

The majority of San Diego's water comes from the Colorado River. Pumping that water is the largest use of electricity in our region. In fact, water utilities are among the biggest consumers of electricity globally (source: projectdrawdown.org).

Rainwater harvesting helps the San Diego region conserve water by reducing stress on this precious resource, as well as decreasing energy consumption. Solana Center offers tools to help you conserve our precious supply of water, such as smart water meters and rain barrels.



## ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION

By capturing rainwater where it falls, we not only benefit our soils, gardens, and local water supplies but we prevent pollutants from impacting our downstream environments. Runoff contains pollutants (i.e. pesticides, fertilizers, litter, heavy metals...) that greatly affect our streams and beaches so decreasing the amount of runoff is critical to a healthy environment.



In addition to offering discounted water conservation tools like rain barrels and smart water meters, Solana Center offers workshops that help you create water-wise gardens, enabling you to spread, sink and store precious rainwater on your property.


## CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION!

*Solana Center can help you take action today by connecting you to resources for change. Your donations help sustain this mission!*


Don't see what you are looking for on this map? Call our hotline or send us an email to inquire about your other options, or share your ideas!




MAKE A DONATION




**FOOD WASTE PREVENTION WORKSHOPS AND BOOTHS:** It takes considerable amounts of energy to get food to our plates – water, fuel, and labor are among a few upstream resources. Solana Center offers food waste prevention education to connect community members to ways they can conserve our precious resources, save money spent on groceries through proper storage, and better understand date label information.




**LESS TO LANDFILL WASTE AUDIT OR CONSULTATION:** Solana Center can provide a detailed analysis of your current waste stream and recommend solutions, such as connecting with edible food recovery and donation entities, recycling organic materials, sending food to partner farms as animal feed, or beginning a relationship with a local compost hauler. Protect our planet while feeding hungry people!




**SB 1383 RESOURCES AND GUIDES:** Solana Center is proud to partner with RSWA cities (Poway, National City, Vista, Solana Beach, Encinitas, Del Mar) and the San Diego Food System Alliance to provide resource materials discussing details and actions to help guide your organization to compliance with SB 1383 legislation.




**WASTE DIVERSION AT SCHOOLS AND EVENTS:** The goal of the school waste diversion program is to work with school district stakeholders to create a lunch waste sorting program which significantly reduces the amount of waste being taken to the landfill. Students learn the importance of properly sorting waste!




**PURCHASE COMPOSTING SUPPLIES:** Composting is an easy way to convert kitchen and yard waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment and water-retaining mulch for your garden. Composting also prevents food from being landfilled, where it then creates warming greenhouse gases like methane.




**1-ON-1 COMPOSTING CONSULTATIONS:** Our staff of composting experts are standing by to troubleshoot compost issues for Unincorporated County of San Diego residents.




**HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM:** Solana Center provides technical assistance to Healthy Soils Program grant applicant farmers and growers, free of charge. We offer help with submitting your application, and if approved, can guide you through your project.




**RUNOFF POLLUTION PREVENTION:** We all play a part in the ongoing health of San Diego's beaches, rivers, lakes, and lagoons through responsible use of water. This can be done by preventing polluted rainwater runoff from entering our natural waterways, and instead, redirecting fresh rainwater to our plants that need it most. Prevent runoff with a rain barrel or to learn how to store, spread, and sink rainwater into your property in a waterwise workshop.




**WATER CONSERVATION:** Water is a precious resource! To transport water to our San Diego area, powerful pumps and a lot of electricity are needed. Project Drawdown places water utilities among the largest consumers of electricity globally. In addition to conserving water with rain barrels, homeowners can purchase a Flume Smart Home Water Meter to monitor water use and catch water-wasting leaks!




**E-WASTE/U-WASTE/PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING:** Keep toxic hazardous waste from electronics, batteries, light bulbs, and plastic bags out of our landfills and groundwater while saving valuable raw materials. Residents can recycle at Solana Center and businesses can schedule a free pickup with Urban Corp.




**TOOL LENDING LIBRARY:** The "library" of garden tools supports San Diego County residents with their home, school, and community garden projects.




**GREEN CONVENE:** Community members can get away from using disposables by borrowing reusable dishes and service ware to greatly reduce the waste generated by gatherings and events.




**ZERO WASTE EVENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION:** Solana Center's waste prevention experts are available for events of all types and sizes with at a variety of support levels. Service options include assistance with waste signage, planning, volunteer coordination, and final waste assessments. If you are planning an environmental event, consider speaking to our Environmental Solutions team about how we can assist.




**HOST A LUNCH & LEARN:** We offer several different topics that will help your group or organization learn how to protect the environment, conserve valuable resources, and reduce your carbon footprint. Choose from topics such as: food waste prevention, composting, low-water landscaping, organic container gardening, backyard chickens, and more!




**ATTEND OUR WORKSHOPS OR FIND US AT EVENTS:** From water stewardship and waste recovery, to composting, gardening, and sustainable living, our workshops focus on environmental protection through simple, at-home actions. Whether you live in an apartment, rent, or own a home, there are methods to incorporate a sustainable lifestyle no matter how much space you have! Influence change from the bottom up by starting at home!



**ECO-LITERACY SCHOOL PROGRAMS:** Solana Center's science-based school programs are NGSS-aligned and designed for ages K-12 to inspire and empower students to live sustainably, reduce and rethink waste, and become change-makers on their campuses and in their communities. Learn more about scheduling an environmental presentation in-person or virtually for your school or schedule a field trip to our Climate Solutions Resource Center in Encinitas for hands-on learning and eco-demonstrations.



**GREEN LIVING TOUR:** The Green Living Tour is a bi-monthly, one-hour tour of our Climate Solutions Resource Center that showcases sustainability in action. Our knowledgeable Eco Team docents walk you through our innovative compost projects including worm and ASP bins, grey water systems, tool lending library, water-wise gardens, and more simple, DIY, climate-friendly solutions.



**Hotline:** Call our hotline with your composting questions and for guidance on other zero waste resources.