

CITY OF OCEANSIDE

WATER UTILITIES - GREEN OCEANSIDE

Oceanside is becoming savvier about reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling, as we strive to meet our Zero Waste sustainability goal of a 75%-90% recycling rate by 2020.

Our schools are also teaming up to increase Oceanside's recycling rate, as OUSD is the first school district



in California to formally adopt a Zero Waste Resolution with the goal of recycling 75% of their waste by the year 2020. This goal will be achieved through the City of

Oceanside sponsored Zero Waste Schools Initiative, which is an extensive recycling and educational program designed to reduce waste, increase recycling and maximize cost savings through on-going education and monitoring. Parents are getting ready to send their kids back to school, and can do so by incorporating zero waste goals to create a healthier Oceanside and a healthier planet. In order to adopt a zero waste lifestyle, parents are asked to buy reusables and recycled content items, support thrift stores, and donate before disposing of old school supplies.

There are lots of fun and easy things parents can do to switch to a zero waste lifestyle. Parents can create a zero waste lunch for their kids in order to reduce packaging waste and send fewer items to the landfill. This can mean using a cloth bag or reusable lunch box instead of a plastic bag, cloth napkins instead of paper, and Tupperware instead of plastic baggies. Plastic baggies are not recyclable in Oceanside, and reducing their consumption eliminates these items from the landfill. By simply switching to these items, precious natural resources are saved. Another easy switch is to buy snacks in bulk instead of in individual packaging. It is also easy to buy a family-sized chip bag, and control portions by packing them in a Tupperware container. Parents can take it a step further by creating their own homemade snacks like kale chips, homemade granola bars, and applesauce instead of buying them in the store.

Road to Waste

There are many places to buy school supplies besides the conventional retail store.

Consider shopping and supporting local thrift stores to save money and reduce packaging waste. You can find almost anything at a thrift store that you'd find at a retail store. Many retail stores also carry recycled content items such as paper, pens, and other school supplies. Buying items made out of recycled content closes the recycling loop and makes recycling economically feasible for recycling companies.



Remember to rethink what to do with old school supplies. Many families have old pens, markers, too-small clothes, and old shoes that are still good but that aren't being used anymore. Instead of tossing these items in the trash, give them a second home and close the loop.



If we keep items in circulation, less items are sent to landfill. There are many thrift stores throughout Oceanside that are more than happy to accept unwanted school supplies. If these stores can't sell them as is, other companies purchase the goods and recycle them into a usable product. If you'd rather hold on to these items yourself, there are many upcycling projects to try or creative ways to recycle them. Turn old jewelry into picture frame accents or make a rug out of old T-shirts.

For more tips about reducing waste and what can be recycled, visit the website at www.greenoceanside.org. All of these tips are easy ways to make a difference in any community. Join Green Oceanside and countless other Oceanside citizens on the road to zero waste!