

WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Love your planet this Valentines Day

Love is in the air!

Valentine's Day isn't just for love birds... it's for those who love birds...and plants, and Mother Nature!

February is a great month to show your love for the planet by making green the new red. You can make February, and the rest of the year a bit more green by saving a little love for your planet and helping the City of Oceanside reach its Zero Waste Goal of diverting 75-90% of our waste from the landfill by 2020.

This year, try incorporating Oceanside's 5 Rs of Zero Waste into your Valentine's Day celebrations and daily routine!

1. **Reduce** your waste by changing what and how much you buy. Instead of buying a card, gift or box of chocolates, plan a trip to a park or nature area to enjoy your Valentine's company and the great outdoors, or make your own homemade sweets and cards! If you do purchase gifts or items at the store, try to buy items that have less packaging.

2. **Reuse** your Valentine's Day flowers by repurposing them and making rose water or scented sachets! You can also support reuse by purchasing your Valentine a piece of vintage or estate jewelry.

3. **Recycle** your Valentine's cards, wrapping paper,

empty bottles, and candy boxes into your blue cart! Don't forget to close the loop by buying gifts made from recycled materials.

4. **Rot.** Once your flowers have wilted, toss them into your curbside green waste bin and it will get composted at the El Corazon composting facility.

5. **Rethink waste.** Zero waste isn't just about recycling, it's a lifestyle that encourages using alternative products, consuming and producing less, and considering how you can further reduce your environmental footprint even during holiday celebrations!



Other ways to go green this Valentine's day include candle lit dinners that save energy, sustainably sourced food like fair-trade chocolate and organic, locally produced wine, and remembering to recycle all empty bottles.



Going green doesn't have to stop in February.

April, Earth Month, is just around the corner and the big event, "Earth Fest" will be **April 22** from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Downtown Oceanside.

Last year, Earth Festival attracted over 10,000 attendees and hosted over 80 vendors.

If you would like to be a vendor at this year's Earth Festival to showcase your environmentally friendly product, service, or business at no cost, please visit www.greenoceanside.org for an application form or email oceansiderecycles@ci.oceanside.ca.us by April 1.

