

GO GREEN for a brighter New Year! Green Oceanside has you covered with tips and resources to help you make this year your most sustainable one yet. Whether you are a resident, business, or visitor in Oceanside, there are many ways you can participate in protecting and enhancing Oceanside's natural resources. Visit the [Green Oceanside website](#) to view all of Green Oceanside's programs and services and to learn more about how you can go green this year.

Water Efficiency

The New Year is the perfect time to set new goals for improving your water efficiency. Did you know that the City has a free program to help you manage your water use? The **WaterSmart Customer**



Portal is a free, online service for all water utilities customers to view their water use data and access features that could help save water and money. Coming soon, customers will also be able to pay utility bills directly through the WaterSmart portal! Additionally, over the next few years the City will be installing new [WaterSmart meters](#)- an exciting, modern technology that will allow all customers with a WaterSmart login to track their water use in **near real-time**. Make sure to register for the portal and update your contact information so that you are able to receive notifications from the City about the new meter program and billing feature.

Register at www.oceanside.watersmart.com to start your year off water-SMART!

Zero Waste

Incorporating zero waste into your New Year's resolution is much easier than you think! Are you looking to live a healthier and more active lifestyle? Getting in the habit of drinking more water is a lot easier with the help of a reusable water bottle. And the best part? Oceanside tap is healthy and delicious, so you can easily and affordably refill your bottle all day long. If your resolution is starting a new hobby, look no further. The zero waste team is here to teach you how you can start your own [backyard compost bin](#) and turn your kitchen waste to garden gold!



Watershed Protection

There are many actions you can take this year to protect Oceanside's waterbodies, even from your own neighborhood! Keep pollution out of local waterways by throwing away litter in designated trash and recycling bins, and make sure to keep the bins closed at all times. If you have pets, make sure to always carry a bag (or two) when walking your pet so that you can pick up and properly dispose of pet waste. This will prevent bacteria and pollution from entering local waterways, helping to keep Oceanside's watershed healthy for the year ahead!

Oceanside's Rain Barrel Program

You may qualify to receive a free rain barrel delivered to your home!

The City received funds to provide 300 rain barrels to Oceanside residents living in specific neighborhoods. Qualified applicants can receive a free rain barrel shipped directly to their home- this could be you!

Why rain barrels?

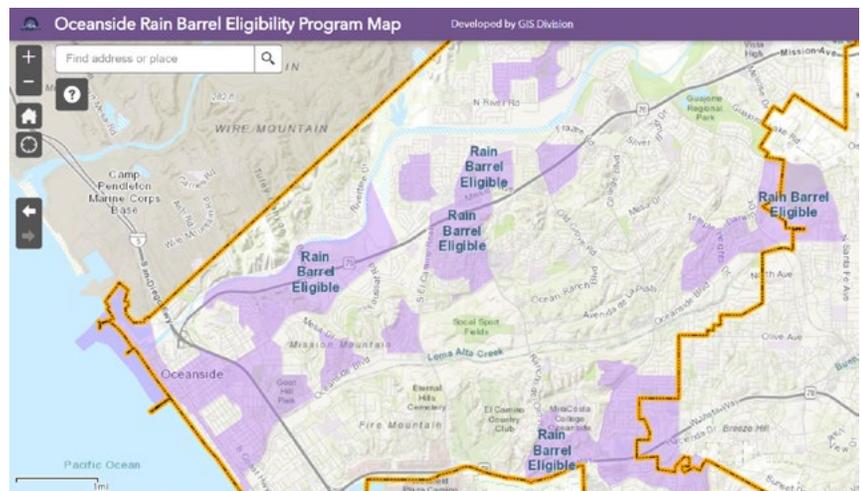
A rain barrel is a smart addition to any yard to help save water. Rain barrels capture water from a roof during a rain event and stores it to be used later on landscapes, gardens and indoor plants. Collecting this free water resource is a great way to help conserve water!

Check if you qualify and apply

To check if your property is eligible for the City's Rain Barrel Program, type your street address into [Green Oceanside's Rain Barrel Program Mapping Tool](#). If you live in an area that is purple, your property is eligible!

Fill out the application at bit.ly/RainBarrelOceanside to apply for a free rain barrel.

All barrels in this program are 55-gallon capacity, and there are five colors available.



What if I don't qualify?

If you don't qualify for this program but are still interested in a barrel, not to worry! The City of Oceanside has rain barrel rebates available for Oceanside residents. Visit www.socalwatersmart.com to view qualifying products and to apply for a rebate. Rebates start at \$35 per barrel.

For more information about the rain barrel program or ways to improve your water efficiency reach out to the Green Oceanside team at greenoceanside@oceansideca.org.

Students for Zero Waste

The Green Oceanside team and Waste Management have partnered together to create an exciting, engaging, and fun way to learn about zero waste in Oceanside! “Students for Zero Waste” is an online learning platform for sustainability tutorials, including a 6-part series about the Story of Recycling, Contamination Prevention, Home Recycling Set-Up, and much more.



The tutorials are broken into three sections for K-3rd, 4th-7th, and 8th-12th learning levels. Each tutorial will prompt participants to make thoughtful decisions about every day actions that puts our City one step closer to achieving its zero waste goal of 75-90% diversion from landfills.

In November, the Green Oceanside team released the “Recycle Right” tutorials, which encourage participants to play an active role in their community by integrating zero waste into their everyday lives through proper recycling.

In early 2021, the Green Oceanside team will be releasing a new set of tutorials with a focus on organics, and reducing the amount of food waste going into our landfills. Participants will learn all about food storage tips, sustainable smart shopping, and supporting our community.

Visit www.StudentsForZeroWaste.com to learn about zero waste today!



Habitat Restoration in Oceanside

Green Oceanside is leading the way in protecting Oceanside's diverse ecosystem while engaging the community in local habitat conservation efforts. Green Oceanside currently manages three habitat restoration projects within the City: the Garrison Creek Native Habitat Restoration project, Loma Alta Slough Wetlands Enhancement Project, and the Buena Vista Creek Restoration Planning project.

Garrison Creek Native Habitat Restoration Project

Green Oceanside is working with Nature Collective, a local non-profit organization, on a habitat restoration project on a portion of Garrison Creek near El Corazon. The project has removed 28 acres of invasive vegetation and planted about 1,500 native plant species in the first year. Nature Collective will continue to monitor irrigation and replanting of species over the next phase of the project. The project enhances existing riparian habitat for local wildlife and improves visitor experience of the Garrison Creek trail by installing new educational signage.



Loma Alta Slough Wetlands Enhancement Project

Closer to the Pacific Ocean, the Loma Alta Slough Wetlands Enhancement Project aims to expand coastal wetland habitat and improve public access through trails and educational signage. The project is currently in the design phase and the City was recently awarded funding for the final design of the project. Once completed, the project restores and enhances six acres of coastal wetland and upland habitat near Buccaneer Beach in South Oceanside. This project will provide new coastal wildlife habitat, improved water quality, climate change resiliency, and recreation opportunities for the community.



Buena Vista Creek Restoration Planning Project

In April 2020, the City was awarded a State grant from the Department of Water Resources for planning a streambank restoration project at Buena Vista Creek in south Oceanside. This project will directly engage the surrounding community to create a restoration plan that will guide future improvements to over 1,500 feet of stream length through vegetation removal, bank stabilization, native restoration planting, and public recreational features.

For more information about current habitat restoration projects, contact Green Oceanside at 760-435-4500 or greenoceanside@oceansideca.org.