

GREEN OCEANSIDE



*Green Oceanside Is Making Our Way to the Future
With Sustainable Actions Everyday*

Each month you probably scroll through The Oceanside Tide, ready to learn a new sustainable strategy or stay up to date on current events that benefit the Oceanside community, but do you know about the programs and guiding forces behind these opportunities? The City's Green Oceanside campaign includes a wide array of interrelated environmental programs moving the City collectively towards [water](#) and [energy](#) efficiency, [watershed](#) protection and [water quality](#), [zero waste](#) and [climate action](#). Although each of these programs move together to promote sustainability throughout Oceanside, they each contain their own individual policies and plans that guide our community towards a resilient, sustainable, and equitable future.



Water Efficiency doesn't mean you should stop using your sink or hose in order to help the planet. Rather, you can keep doing the same activities you already do in your everyday life, just using less water! Through the [2020 Water Conservation Master Plan](#), the City is coordinating programs that will help residents and businesses reduce water waste while maintaining their quality of life. The Green Oceanside team also works with other department staff to provide water customers with the [tools and technologies](#) needed to increase water efficiency and works to [expand local water supplies](#) so that the City can reduce reliance on imported water and ensure a sustainable water supply for the future.

In addition to protecting Oceanside's water supplies, Green Oceanside works to prevent pollution and protect our waterways. Through the [City's Jurisdictional Runoff Management Plan](#), Green Oceanside coordinates initiatives to reduce stormwater pollution, enhance and restore native habitat and educate the community about climate resiliency. Examples of these initiatives include the upcoming restoration of the [Loma Alta Slough Wetlands](#) and the ongoing Garrison Creek Native Habitat Restoration project at the El Corazon property.

Properly managing and preventing waste from occurring not only keeps our waterways clean and healthy, but moves the City towards its goal of 75-90% landfill diversion. By recycling organic waste with the expansion of the Commercial Food Scraps Recycling Program, businesses have helped to remove the equivalent of 1,900 cars from the road each month. With updates to the [2020 Zero Waste Plan](#), the City will continue existing programs while also expanding resources for residents who want to trim down their waste at home.

Prioritizing zero waste, expanding renewable energy, efficiently using water and energy, and expanding sustainable modes of transportation are all ways Oceanside residents can help reduce the City's carbon footprint in their everyday habits. Choosing to commute by bicycle or starting a backyard garden are all Local Sustainability Efforts founds in the [City's Energy Climate Action Element of the General Plan Update](#), which collectively commits the City to reduce climate emissions in alignment with California State goals by 2030.

While each environmental initiative in Green Oceanside's suite of programs work on unique and impactful projects and actions to benefit the community, all are focused on moving the City towards a sustainable future.

Thank You for Continuing to Use Water Efficiently

Current dry conditions statewide are a reminder of just how important water efficiency is to protecting Oceanside's quality of life. While other areas in California are facing drought emergencies this season, it is reasonable to wonder if our historically dry region is going to be affected too. Fortunately, thanks to the investments that our City and County have made in expanding water storage capacity and increasing local water supplies, along with continued water efficiency, our region has sufficient water supplies to help us through these dry times.



Oceanside residents have done a great job incorporating water-efficient practices into their daily routines. It's important to remember that water efficiency means using less water while doing your everyday actions. By continuing to improve the ways in which we use water and focus on wasting less of it, our community will help ensure that our region continues to have sufficient water supplies even during multiple dry years. Keep up the great work, Oceanside, we got this!

The Green Oceanside team has tips and resources to help residents take control of their water use and learn how to improve water efficiency. From simple adjustments like installing a low-flow showerhead to daily practices like using leftover cooking water to water houseplants, there's something everyone can do to improve.

July is Smart Irrigation Month!

Rebates are available on Smart Irrigation Devices! Visit www.socalwatersmart.com for details.

Take the guesswork out of irrigation by upgrading to a smart controller. Weather and soil moisture-based controllers automatically adjust the watering schedule based on conditions at your location. No more having to guess how much water your landscape actually needs!



Use drip irrigation to apply low pressure, low volume irrigation directly to the base or roots of plants, saving water from being wasted. These systems are ideal for watering smaller landscape areas precisely and efficiently.

Select sprinkler heads and nozzles that apply water uniformly to the target area. Remember to inspect your sprinkler needs regularly to make sure they are not obstructed or watering onto pavement.

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Protecting Watersheds

Green Oceanside helps to ensure that our waterways are protected by preventing pollutants from entering the City's storm drain system in compliance with state and regional environmental regulations. City staff conducts inspection and complaint investigations for commercial, industrial, and residential properties within the City to reduce pollutants from entering streets and storm drains. Green Oceanside is also responsible for surface water quality monitoring programs, habitat restoration projects, education, training, and outreach to businesses, developers, residents, teachers, and municipal staff about stormwater regulations.



As a coastal community, Oceanside relies on clean water for its residents, healthy beaches, public safety, and a desirable environment for wildlife. When it rains, many pollutants that lurk on sidewalks, streets, parking lots, and yards wash down the storm drains, and into the nearest body of water. Unfortunately, storm drains do not filter water or debris and are not connected to the sewer system. So, any pollutant that flows in the storm drain system eventually ends up in our rivers, creeks, and ocean.

Protecting our waterways from pollutants is a group effort. Green Oceanside and Code Enforcement staff actively investigate reports of landscape irrigation runoff, illegal dumping, or other storm drain pollution concerns. Residents can also help prevent water pollution by reporting any incidents of stormwater pollution to Customer Care or the urban runoff hotline at (760) 435-4500 or customercare@oceansideca.org.

Quick Tips to Prevent Water Pollution:

- Check irrigation and adjust sprinklers so they don't spray onto streets and sidewalks - Over irrigation is a violation of City ordinance and State Law.
- Use less fertilizer and pesticides – apply only when conditions are dry and there's no rain in the forecast.
- Pick up after your pet and properly dispose of waste in designated containers.
- Prevent soil erosion by using appropriate containment devices whether at home or on a construction site.
- Wash vehicles on a landscaped area or use a commercial car wash.

Green Oceanside also offers educational resources on how to implement best management practices to prevent stormwater pollution. Through our collective efforts, we can work together to change habits that will ultimately conserve our natural resources and prevent pollution from reaching our waterways. Remember, you are the solution to storm water pollution. Green Oceanside thanks you for helping to keep our watershed healthy!

One Planet. Take Action.

www.GreenOceanside.org

Moving Oceanside Closer to Zero Waste

Since adoption of the City's Zero Waste Goal of 75 to 90 percent diversion in 2010, Green Oceanside's Zero Waste team has been hard at work bringing increased waste prevention strategies, reuse opportunities, and recycling options to Oceanside residents and businesses. With the recent passage of the [2020 Zero Waste Plan](#), the Zero Waste team has an updated roadmap outlining the continuation of many popular initiatives including the Zero Waste Schools Program, Food Waste Prevention and Recovery, and Backyard Composting. In addition to existing efforts, increased opportunities for reuse and repair of materials as well as the future addition of residential curbside organics services will move our City closer to zero waste and greenhouse gas emission reductions.



Through the 2012 Zero Waste Plan, Oceanside added new services and enhanced projects to benefit our communities while keeping materials out of landfills. The Zero Waste Schools Program added recycling bins, food share tables, and increased education to every campus of the Oceanside Unified School District. Students can now access virtual tutorials to expand their recycling and organics expertise by visiting www.StudentsForZeroWaste.com.

To expand food recovery opportunities and food waste prevention efforts, the City invested \$1.7 million into the development and construction of the [Green Oceanside Kitchen](#), which opened in 2019. The facility is operated in partnership with O'side Kitchen Collaborative (OKC), and during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Green Oceanside Kitchen supported the storage of over 430,000 lbs of perishable food, which OKC then processed into over 330,000 emergency meals provided to the community.

Additionally, for those residents who want to turn their backyard waste and vegetable scraps into [compost](#), the City offered increased free resources to residents, including free bins to over 400 residents throughout 2020. Through these programs, as well as increasing services like curbside donation and reuse options, household hazardous waste disposal, and city-wide recycling, Oceanside is prepped for even greater success implementing the 2020 Zero Waste Plan.



And last, but not least, in 2020 the City launched the Food Scraps Recycling Program to over 1,000 businesses in Oceanside, with over 70% seeing cost savings of over \$23,000, and the equivalent of removing over 1,900 cars from the roads on a monthly basis. City staff are preparing for future organics programs to comply with Senate Bill 1383 Short Lived Climate Pollutant Action Plan (SB 1383). The SB 1383 Action Plan was included in the Zero Waste Plan to guide the City with implementing new organics services and programs. While Oceanside residents have been far ahead of the state-wide curve by recycling their green waste curbside since the 1990s, residents will be able to recycle their food scraps curbside starting in 2024! Even though the SB 1383 Action Plan is extensive in scope and reach, residents can look forward to the addition of food scraps collection services and food waste prevention education; and commercial businesses will have increased information and resources to support the recovery of edible food for people, not waste bins.