

# GREEN OCEANSIDE



## Protect Your Happy Place

Change is in the air! The 37th Annual California [Coastal Cleanup Day](#) is back and set for Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 9am to noon. Last year, volunteers helped to protect the coast by cleaning up their neighborhoods to honor the spirit of the cleanup while maintaining safety precautions. About 7,800 San Diegans volunteered alongside their families, friends, coworkers, school groups, and community to prevent trash from entering storm drains, creeks, and rivers, all of which eventually lead to the ocean. This year, join Green Oceanside in removing trash and plastic pollution that has been accumulating since we last were able to gather for an organized cleanup event!

What is Coastal Cleanup Day? Coastal Cleanup Day is the world's largest annual volunteer event to remove pollution from our environment. The event is part of International Coastal Cleanup Day, which is facilitated by the [Ocean Conservancy](#) and includes many U.S. states and territories, and over 70 countries! In California, Coastal Cleanup Day is a partnership between the [California Coastal Commission](#), nonprofit groups, cities, and counties throughout the state. Since 1985, over 970,000 volunteers have removed over 26 million pounds of litter and debris all over California.



How can you get involved? It's easy! This year, Green Oceanside is hosting cleanup sites at various locations along the San Luis Rey River and Buena Vista Creek. Volunteers of all ages are invited to join and can find information on locations to volunteer at in Oceanside at [www.GreenOceanside.org](http://www.GreenOceanside.org). Registration and waivers will need to be signed by all participants either in advance or on the day of the event.

Green Oceanside also encourages volunteers to participate throughout the month of September by cleaning up their neighborhoods, parks, and local areas. Cleaning up your community can help prevent thousands of pounds of debris from entering our stormwater systems and ultimately our coast and ocean.

To learn more on how to participate at a cleanup event this month, [visit www.GreenOceanside.org](http://www.GreenOceanside.org).

One Planet. Take Action.  
[www.GreenOceanside.org](http://www.GreenOceanside.org)

## Are You RainFALL Ready?



October 1st marks the official start of the rainy season and these last few years of wet weather patterns have illustrated the importance of being prepared for potentially infrequent, but heavy downpours. There are a number of simple ways that you can help protect your property or business, as well as improve Oceanside's waterways throughout the upcoming fall and winter months. Remember, even though California may be in a drought, we all need to be prepared to protect our waterways from stormwater pollution!

While implementing best management practices (BMPs) is a year-round effort, it becomes especially important when storm activity increases. During a rainstorm, runoff from roofs, sidewalks, and driveways can carry trash, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizers, automobile fluids, and other pollutants into our storm drains. Here in Oceanside, water in storm drains is not treated before it reaches our local creeks, rivers, and the ocean. Help [Oceanside](#) be stormwater-wise by preparing for the rainy season and keep pollutants from entering our waterways.

Take a look outside your home and identify what could be a pollutant if it came into contact with rain or storm water runoff. Use the rainy season checklist below to help you prepare:

- Make sure that you store any hazardous materials or waste out of the rain and the reach of stormwater flowing on the ground. Items such as paint cans, fertilizers, pesticides, cleaners, and oil containers need to be stored properly or disposed of at the [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility](#).
- Remember to pick up pet waste, yard trimmings, trash and litter and place in a covered trash or recycling bin. Fertilize your landscape after it rains, so nutrients are not washed to our waterways where they can have harmful effects on wildlife.
- Fix broken and misaligned sprinkler heads, reduce watering time and skip watering before, during, and right after a rain event. It's important that sprinklers spray only your landscape – water should not be spraying or running off to any pavement!
- Redirect rain gutters and downspouts to your landscape. Rainwater has value and if you capture and save it for later you can reduce your water use!
- Maintain drainage systems on your property and check to make sure they are not obstructed with debris or damaged.
- Stabilize hillsides with planted vegetation or mulch and properly cover sediment piles or open areas to prevent erosion.

Industrial, commercial, and construction businesses can also help Oceanside prepare for the rainy season and prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain by reviewing the checklist of common rainy season BMPs below:

- Clean out storm drains and ditches.
- Maintain equipment and vehicles to prevent leaks.
- Sweep parking lots and outdoor work areas.
- Cover and berm equipment and material stored outdoors.
- Update the facility's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) if applicable.

Thank you for helping to keep our waterways clean and healthy, and to learn more about what you can do to prepare for the season ahead, visit [www.greenoceanside.org](http://www.greenoceanside.org) or call 760-435-4500.

## Voluntary Steps for Water Efficiency

We hope everyone had a fun summer! Oceanside has continued to do a great job using water wisely all summer long. The entire southwest region have faced our second consecutive dry year. In Oceanside we have worked to continue to use water wisely all summer long. It is important to remember to continue to do so even as we enter the winter months. The upcoming winter is very important for the southwest region with hopes to replenish our water supplies.



Oceanside residents have historically always done a great job with improving their water efficiency in dry periods, and continuing to do so will improve our community's resilience to the arid climate we live in.

### *What is water efficiency?*

Water efficiency means doing the same things you already do, just with less water! This does not mean you have to change your way of life, rather, think about what you can do to limit water use in your daily activities. Simple changes can contribute to large water savings, helping you and the environment.

There are many voluntary actions you can take to improve your water efficiency, such as:

- Stop washing down paved surfaces, including sidewalks, driveways, and patios.
- Irrigate landscapes before 10 am and after 6 pm to limit evaporation.
- Tune up your irrigation system to prevent runoff, overspray, or watering non-targeted areas such as roadways or other hardscapes.
- Wash vehicles using a bucket and hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle and avoid washing during hot conditions when additional water is required due to evaporation. Or better yet, take your vehicle to a commercial car wash which re-circulates water on-site.
- Repair all water leaks in a timely manner.
- Turn off irrigation for 48 hours after it rains.



Keep up the great work, Oceanside! For additional ideas on improving water efficiency and to stay updated on the City's environmental programs, visit [www.greenoceanside.org](http://www.greenoceanside.org).

## September is Hunger Action Month

Many of our neighbors, friends, and even loved ones have been faced with food insecurity throughout the last year. While you can't always see it, this issue affects many more people throughout our community and now is the time to take action.

### What is Hunger Action Month?

Hunger Action month is a month-long campaign throughout September that raises awareness of hunger in our country, and promotes ways for individuals everywhere to receive education and get involved. With 1 in 5 Oceanside residents, and as many as 1 in 2 children, considered food insecure and not knowing when or where they will get their next meal, it is important to do what you can to take action this fall, and all year long, to help our community members thrive.



### What Can You do to Positively Impact Our Community?

- **Learn More:** Gaining knowledge about hunger and food insecurity is the first step to making a change. Check out [Feeding America's Hunger Blog](#), or complete the "[Feed People, Not Landfills](#)" tutorial, as part of the Food Waste Prevention online education program from Green Oceanside's [Students For Zero Waste](#) program. Finish the tutorial, email [GreenOceanside@oceansideca.org](mailto:GreenOceanside@oceansideca.org), and receive a FREE Zero Waste Champs shirt! (While supplies last, for Oceanside residents).
- **Volunteer Locally:** Did you know? 51% of all food programs rely ENTIRELY on volunteers. From sorting and packing food, delivering meals, picking produce to even assisting with food distribution events, you can play a huge role in feeding our community. You can register as an individual or group through the below local agencies:
  - [O'side Kitchen Collaborative](#)
  - [ProduceGood](#)
  - [San Diego Food Bank](#)
  - [Feeding San Diego](#)
- **Take Action at Home to Prevent Food Waste:** The [Green Oceanside Kitchen Webpage](#) has a plethora of videos and handouts offering tips and DIY ideas to reduce the amount of wasted food from your kitchen.
- **Donate Your Surplus Food if You're a Business:** The State of California has a goal to reduce edible food waste, and requires cities and their businesses to recover edible food through SB 1383 requirements. Check out the [City of Oceanside Food Recovery Organizations](#) worksheet for a full list of local feeding agencies that accept surplus edible food. Instead of your food going to waste in a landfill, you can feed hundreds of community members.
- **Get Social and Spread the Word:** Tell your friends and family what you're doing to help end hunger this month. Don't forget to tag us and use #HungerActionMonth and #GreenOceanside!