



# Wise About Waste

Quarterly Newsletter | April - June 2024

Brought to you by Peninsula Sanitary Service, Inc. in partnership with Stanford's Office of Sustainability

## Earth Day 2024 - Planet vs. Plastics

**Did you know?** The catalyst for the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970 was an oil spill in Santa Barbara.\*



Fast forward to today. Earth Day 2024 focuses on the toll plastics are taking on our planet, how it affects our health, and ways build a plastic-free planet for generations to come. Here's how you can participate:

- **Avoid single-use plastics.** 40 percent of plastic production is single use\*. **Choose and use** reusables (eg: travel mugs, water bottles, cutlery, shopping totes) whenever possible.
- **Reject fast fashion.** Avoid cheap clothing items made from synthetic fibers. Whether purchasing clothing secondhand or new, **choose sustainable materials** (eg: wool, linen, organic cotton) that are of good quality and can be recycled or repurposed easily.
- **Sort plastic waste properly.** Plastic litter never fully breaks down and turns into microplastics that impact all living things. **Protect our ecosystems by avoiding plastics** whenever possible. To recycle plastics properly, pour out liquid and scrape out food scraps.
- **Learn more.** Read about the detriments of plastic production and the benefits of curbing plastic consumption by visiting [Earthday.org/earth-day-2024](https://earthday.org/earth-day-2024)

**Every step towards Zero Waste contributes to a healthier planet. Together, we can make an impact.**  
**Thank you for your efforts.**

\*Sources: Laura Parker. "Here's how much plastic trash is littering the earth." National Geographic, December 20, 2018, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/07/plastic-produced-recycling-waste-ocean-trash-debris-environment/>. Beth Gardiner. "The Plastics Pipeline: A Surge of New Production Is on the Way." Yale Environment 360, December 19, 2019, <https://e360.yale.edu/features/the-plastics-pipeline-a-surge-of-new-production-is-on-the-way>. [earthday.org/history](https://earthday.org/history)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Spring Clean Up**  
**April 27th**  
**7am - 12pm**

*Enhanced program!*  
Items in good, clean, and working condition will be collected for reuse.

Items must be set aside from other items and be labeled "REUSE".

Scan the QR code for more info, a "REUSE" sign that can be downloaded, and a sample list of accepted items.



**PLEASE NOTE:** Televisions and monitors must have your name and address included on each item. Hazardous waste, universal waste, and contractor generated waste will not be collected. See second page for proper disposal of hazardous waste.

## Free Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste

Looking to properly dispose of household products labeled as flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive such as auto fluids, garden chemicals, and household cleaners? Make a free appointment at the Los Altos Drop-Off Event on April 13th!

Learn more: [hww.santaclaracounty.gov/drop-household-waste/household-hazardous-waste-operating-schedule](http://hww.santaclaracounty.gov/drop-household-waste/household-hazardous-waste-operating-schedule)



## Stanford Alum Hosts Composting Workshop for Stanford Residents

On Saturday, January 20, 2024, the Sustainability Committee of the Stanford Campus Residential Leaseholders (SCRL) hosted a composting and waste sorting workshop for faculty and staff residents. In collaboration with the Master Composters of Santa Clara County and Stanford's Office of Sustainability, residents learned the basics of backyard composting as well as proper waste sorting tips and tricks.



*Stanford Alum and Master Composter, Dan Hefeman, shared best practices to manage a compost pile at home and highlighted the multiple benefits including lower emissions, increased soil health, and enhanced plant growth.*

### Questions about proper sorting?

When in doubt, find out! Check out PSSI's search tool for what goes where at [pssirecycling.com/waste/sort](http://pssirecycling.com/waste/sort)



## Free Compost Delivery



PSSI now provides up to four cubic yards of commercial grade compost to residents every rolling twelve-month period at no charge. To request this service, use our online portal (see article below), send us an email, or give us a call.

Use your compost to start a garden! Learn more from the Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County here: [mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/garden-help](http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/garden-help)

### Online Portal Provides 24/7 Access

Request services, make secure payments, sign up for paperless billing, and more.

All information is secure and confidential. Visit [pssirecycling.com](http://pssirecycling.com) and click on the red "Account Login" button to get started.

Account Login

**HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE** The collection schedule **does not change** during Memorial Day or July 4th. Please ensure your carts are out for collection by 6am on your regular service day.

## Questions? Contact PSSI.

call - 650-321-4236 • email - [pssi@pssirecycling.com](mailto:pssi@pssirecycling.com) • website - [www.pssirecycling.com](http://www.pssirecycling.com)

