








USING DIVERSION AND INNOVATION TO BECOME A ZERO WASTE CITY

Zero Waste helps keep our air, land, and water clean while generating more




local jobs. Reusing products helps to reduce waste and eliminates the need to extract additional resources.

When waste materials are disposed of improperly, pollutants can affect soil and water impacting the local environment and food production. Strong greenhouse gases can also taint the air when organic materials in landfills decompose. Extracting resources, using energy to manufacture goods, and transporting products, are all major causes of harmful air emissions. Zero Waste provides a path to greater health and economic welfare.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

-  Achieving some of the nation's highest diversion rates - 73% overall, 77% multi-family, 87% City facilities
-  Serving as a national model and raising the bar for diversion with established programs, such as Construction and Demolition Diversion (CDD), Recycle Plus, Go Green Schools and Zero Waste Event programs.
-  Developing partnerships, infrastructure, and pilot projects to test technologies that can convert organic waste to energy.
-  Constructing the San José Environmental Innovation Center housing a HHW drop-off facility and clean tech demo center.
-  Proposed phase out of expanded polystyrene foam food ware, following in the footsteps of the single-use plastic bag ban.

GET INVOLVED

-  Learn more about how to reduce, reuse and recycle in San José and visit www.sjrecycles.org.
-  Compost organic waste and bring your own shopping bags grocery shopping to reduce litter and waste sent to the landfill.
-  Divert your construction and demolition waste.

ABOUT THE GREEN VISION

The San José Green Vision, a 15-year plan adopted in 2007, charts ambitious goals for clean tech jobs, energy use reduction, renewable energy, green building, waste reduction, water reuse, sustainable development, clean fleet, trees, zero emission streetlights and interconnected trails. The plan is designed to lead us into a future of economic growth, environmental sustainability and an enhanced quality of life for our community.

Learn more: <http://greenvision.sanjoseca.gov/>

GOAL

Divert 100% of our waste from landfills and convert waste to energy

HIGHLIGHTS

- Waste and Recycling News awarded the 2012 Green City Award to the City's Recycle Plus program for being the most effective and successful residential recycling program for a large city in the United States
- San José businesses tripled their recycling rate in 2012, and are on track to achieve 80% diversion by 2014, due to the newly established commercial solid waste collection system which utilizes 50 Compressed Natural Gas vehicles, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



CONTACT INFO:

For more information, contact Jo Zientek with the Environmental Services Department at (408) 535-8557 or jo.zientek@sanjoseca.gov



GREEN VISION GOALS

BY THE YEAR 2022:

-  1. Create 25,000 Clean Tech jobs as the World Center of Clean Tech Innovation
-  2. Reduce per capita energy use by 50 percent
-  3. Receive 100 percent of our electrical power from clean renewable sources
-  4. Build or retrofit 50 million square feet of green buildings
-  5. Divert 100 percent of the waste from our landfill and convert waste to energy
-  6. Recycle or beneficially reuse 100 percent of our wastewater (100 million gallons per day)
-  7. Adopt a General Plan with measurable standards for sustainable development
-  8. Ensure that 100 percent of public fleet vehicles run on alternative fuels
-  9. Plant 100,000 new trees and replace 100 percent of our streetlights with smart, zeroemission lighting
-  10. Create 100 miles of interconnected trails



CONTACT INFORMATION

Main: (408) 535-3500

TTY: (408) 294-9337

Fax: (408) 292-6731

Address: 200 E. Santa Clara St., San José, CA 95113

Website: <http://greenvision.sanjoseca.gov/>

Email: greenvision@sanjoseca.gov