

December 2019

Sustainable Sunnyvale

Making A Difference Together

Have a Zero Waste Holiday

The holidays are here! Along with an average of 25 percent more waste generated by American families. If you want to celebrate with zero waste in mind, check out these sustainable holiday tips:

- Get creative with your gift wrapping. Use brown paper bags, newspapers or magazines. Tie them off with twine, and add greens and red berries from your yard. Or, for a gift that keeps on giving, wrap items with a tea towel, scarf or shawl from a thrift store.
- Treat your loved ones to a fun, shared experience, such as cooking or pottery classes, or tickets to a show. For a personalized experience, gift a handmade coupon book of favors or activities.
- Toys and trinkets end up as clutter, lost or tossed in the trash. Instead, stuff stockings with homemade treats. Or give a long-lasting gift like a knitted hat or a used book.



Want more inspiration or fun night of holiday cheer? Join us on December 9, for [Holiday Crafts the Zero Waste Way!](#) located at the Sunnyvale Public Library from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Resilience is a Top Priority for the Cleanwater Program

Sunnyvale's [Cleanwater Program](#) is enhancing the resilience of our wastewater treatment facility.

The Program is improving critical facilities by:

- Upgrading chlorine contact tanks and other structural features to be earthquake-resilient;
- Improving energy efficiency; and
- Implementing cost-effective enhancements.

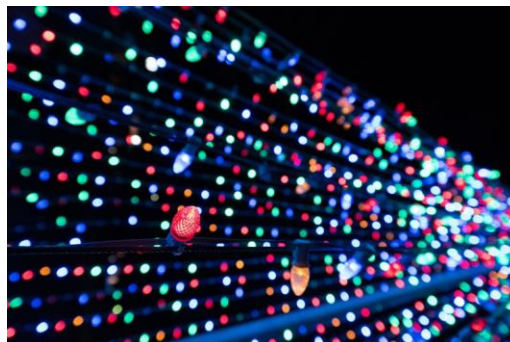


The Program will ensure that the facility meets modern safety and efficiency standards. That way, we can bring you reliable services every holiday season and year round for many years to come!

Bright Ideas for an Energy-Efficient Holiday Season

The holiday season is a time to be merry and spread cheer! But it also tends to be a time when energy use and utility bills skyrocket. These tips can help you save energy and money this season:

- **An Illuminated Idea:** If you decorate your home with lights, choose the LED kind. They emit less heat and use 90 percent less energy than conventional lights. These lights alone can save \$50 on your energy bill during the holidays!
- **Timing is Everything:** Be savvy with the times that your lights are on this year. Turn off holiday lights and decorations before bed. Better still, consider using a timer to automatically turn off lights when it's so late that even Rudolph is asleep.
- **Be an Energy Star:** Plan on buying appliances this season? Choose [ENERGY STAR](#) certified ones that use less energy!



"He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake..."

And trust us, he knows what you poured down that drain.



Be Conscious in the Kitchen this Holiday

Whether you're cooking or cleaning, resist the temptation to put grease or greasy foods down the sink. It can clog your pipes and cause problems at the sewage treatment plant.

Instead, put fat trimmings and leftover grease in a clear plastic bag. Then dispose of them in the yellow side of your FoodCycle cart. To keep them from making

a mess, you can place those bags in the freezer until collection day. Bring large quantities of cooking oil to the [SMaRT Station](#) for recycling at no charge.

Remind your guests about the food scraps program before you start your holiday meal. Sunnyvale's FoodCycle program is unique – it collects more than fruits and vegetables. It also takes meats, bones, shells, eggs, pits, dairy products and even freezer-burned food from last year's feast.





Electric Vehicle Group Discount Plan [CLICK HERE](#)

Participate in Drive Clean Bay Area's group purchase discount plan to save money on a new electric vehicle.

Program ends December 31, 2019

Holiday
GIVEAWAY

Check out our Facebook to participate in our Holiday Giveaway this month.

@SunnyvaleEnvironmentalServices 

Upcoming Events:

[Holiday Crafts the Zero Waste Way!](#)

Celebrate your holidays with less waste! Join us for a free craft night and create an upcycled gift bow, customized coupon booklets, beeswax food wrap or zero waste gift wrap.

December 9, 2019

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Sunnyvale Public Library
665 W. Olive Ave.

[California's Rise to Water Resilience: What Will It Take?](#)

Join Felicia Marcus, former Chair of the California State Water Resources Control Board, to learn how we can improve water resiliency in the coming years.

Sustainability Speaker Series

January 29, 2020

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Sunnyvale City Hall Council Chambers
456 W. Olive Ave.

We want your input
CLICK HERE!

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