June 2019 Sustainable Sunnyvale Making A Difference Together

Recycle Right

Each week, garbage and recycling trucks travel throughout Sunnyvale to pick up and empty the garbage, FoodCycle, recycling, and yard waste carts at over 29,000 homes. As you can imagine, the drivers appreciate and count on residents for putting their carts and materials out correctly. Help us streamline the collection process - here are some reminders for how to prepare your carts for collection:

- Face It Forward Place carts so that the wheels and handles are facing the curb.
- Take a Week Off Still have plenty of space in the recycling cart? Skip a week and wait to put it out until it's full.
- Corral the Cardboard Flatten corrugated cardboard and tie it into bundles no larger than 30" x 30" x 6" and place next to your cart. Small pieces can go in the recycling cart.



- Avoid Hazards Keep hazardous waste materials out of your carts. Make an appointment to drop them off at the <u>Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program facility</u>.
- **Keep it Clean** Make sure you're only putting the right kind of items in your recycling and FoodCycle carts. Check out our <u>Dirty Dozen</u> and <u>FoodCycle</u> pages for more information.

Protect Our Waterways

Water is life and how we take care of our waterways is important for health as well as sustainability. Below is how you can do your part to prevent waterway pollution:



Only Rain Down the Drain

There are thousands of storm drains in the City of Sunnyvale. Do your part by keeping the drains clear and pollutant free! Report illegal storm drain dumping by calling the Storm Drain 24-Hour Hotline at (408) 730-7400.

Every Drop Counts

70 percent of earth is covered by water but only one percent is available and accessible for daily use. Although the drought is over, water conservation should be a "way of life." Turn off water when not in use and report water waste by calling Valley Water at (408) 630-2000 or <u>submit an anonymous</u> report online.

Just Because is Disappears Doesn't Mean it Goes Away...

Wastewater pollution can cause tremendous infrastructure damage! Remember to put only toilet paper in the toilet and to wipe cooking pans free of fats, oils and grease (FOG) prior to cleaning in the sink. Dispose of FOG by pouring it into your food scraps bin (in Sunnyvale) or into a container to be disposed of in the trash.

For more information on water pollution or conservation, call (408) 730-7717 or email the <u>Environmental Services Department</u>.

Protecting the Bay Everyday

The Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant (Plant) collects and cleans sewage from 174,000 Sunnyvale residents and commuters before releasing it into the San Francisco Bay. The Plant ensures that the treated sewage discharged into the Bay is of the highest quality and consistently meets rigorous and evolving regulatory standards. The Plant is also a source of recycled water and renewable power, which helps reduce the demand on drinking water supply and almost fully powers the Plant's operations. The Plant has served the community well for more than 60 years, and improvements and upgrades are needed to ensure the Plant meets future regulatory requirements and our community's growing needs.

FUN FACTS About Our Plant



The Plant has been in **continuous, 24/7** operation since **1956.**



Before the Plant was built, wastewater from *homes and canneries* was piped directly into the Bay.



The Plant currently *produces* an average of **250 million gallons** of recycled water per year.

The <u>Sunnyvale Cleanwater Program</u> will upgrade the Plant through a series of long-term projects that replace or repair facilities to ensure the reliable collection and cleaning of wastewater. Additional benefits of the upgrades include:

- Better energy efficiency
- More recycled water produced
- Improved resilience related to climate change, including flood protection
- New, more cost-effective technologies

Many of the project improvements are already in the design phase and some have started construction.

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Upcoming Events

Compost Workshops

Learn the basics of backyard and worm composting at this workshop! Compost bins are available for purchase after the workshop. June 8 & July 13, 2019 10 a.m. to noon Murphy Park Building 260 N. Sunnyvale Ave.

Green Action Day

Register and learn about ecofriendly lifestyles with a free vegetarian lunch, seed and plant exchange, souvenirs, and so much more... June 9, 2019 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 750 East Argues Avenue Sunnyvale

Farmer's Market Info Booth

Stop by our Sunnyvale Environmental Services booth to get a free produce bag and educational material on City programs. June 22, 2019 10 a.m. to noon Murphy Ave. at Washington Ave., Sunnyvale

Document Shredding Event

Bring your old documents to the Event Document Shredding Event to assist with destroying confidential or personal documents. July 13, 2019 8:00 a.m. to noon SMaRT Station 301 Carl Rd.

Household Hazardous Waste

Dispose of HHW, such as mercury-containing items, batteries, and fertilizers. July 20, 2019 8 a.m. to noon Location provided with appointment

What topics do you want to read more about? We want to hear from you!

Connect with us green@sunnyvale.ca.gov | 408-730-7717

