



# Zero Waste






## 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 the nation's highest diversion rates - 71% overall, 80% for events, 77% multi-family, 84% City facilities.
-  Serving as a national model and raising the bar for diversion with established programs, such as Construction and Demolition Debris Diversion (CDDD) and RecyclePlus.
-  Establishing a new commercial waste system to enable all businesses to divert more of their waste from the landfill and upgrading collection vehicles to run on Compressed Natural Gas.
-  Developing partnerships, infrastructure, and pilot projects to test technologies that can convert organic waste to energy.
-  Partnering with school districts through the Go Green Schools program.

### GET INVOLVED

-  Learn more about how to reduce, reuse and recycle in San José and visit [www.sjrecycles.org](http://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

- San José became the first U.S. city to earn E-Stewards Enterprise designation, which recognizes companies, institutions, and governmental bodies that commit to making best efforts to uphold the highest standards for the responsible management of electronic waste
- During the 2011 holiday season, San José hosted several special exhibits and activities at Christmas in the Park and Downtown Ice to ensure that these popular events and venues become sustainable for future generations



### CONTACT INFO:

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## 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

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