



ALAN STYLES

Recycling

Don't be a turkey — green your Thanksgiving

During the holidays, Californians produce 25 percent more waste than at other times of the year. This Thanksgiving, reduce, reuse and recycle to give your loved ones a greener planet and healthier local environment, for which they will be truly thankful.

Reconnaissance

Plan your shopping trips to reduce your impact on the environment:

- ▶ Map your route to condense your driving.
- ▶ Bring reusable shopping bags.
- ▶ Bring a reusable water bottle and/or travel coffee cup to use when you need to take a break.

Recycle

Show your guests and kitchen helpers where to recycle and what to compost.

Ask the host or hostess where to put recyclables.

Reduce and reuse

- ▶ Use reusable plates, cups, utensils, napkins and tablecloths for your place settings.
- ▶ Serve water from pitchers into goblets with wine charms to help your guests know which glass is theirs, and reduce the need for

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disposable bottles of water.

- ▶ If you're a guest, bring your own personal water bottle to refill.
- ▶ Buy in bulk, or buy the largest size you can use to reduce the amount of packaging you purchase and throw away. Just be sure your bulk buy isn't smaller packages wrapped in more packaging.
- ▶ If you deep-fry your turkey, use proper care in recycling the oil.
- ▶ Use a digital camera to capture the memories. Take photos with abandon, and share memories easily with others. Print only what you need.
- ▶ Buy locally grown and produced food and beverages to celebrate the Central Coast's cornucopia of top quality produce and wines and reduce your carbon footprint.
- ▶ Give local wines, fresh fruits, other locally made or homemade specialties, and gift certificates for hostess gifts; a busy host-

ess will appreciate gifts that don't require immediate attention.

- ▶ Choose wine bottled with cork stoppers. Cork is natural and sustainable. Consider creative ways to reuse the corks in craft projects, and even as mulch.
- ▶ If you are buying a holiday tree, consider a reusable tree. If you buy a cut tree, keep it recyclable; don't use flocking or tinsel.

Rot

Compost food and yard waste. Don't have a compost bin? Buy or make one as a gift to yourself and your family that will keep giving year-round; from the reduction in waste (and waste fees) to the nutrient-rich compost you'll produce for your plants and garden.

- ▶ *Alan Styles is recycling coordinator for the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority. His column appears the third Saturday of the month in Central Coast Living. Contact him at alanst@svswa.org.*