



## FROM THE EDITOR

The 2024-25 school year has begun, and San Benito County students are back to studying, hanging out with friends, and participating in school sports. We hope that their education also includes the 4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot.

This issue of *Journeys to Zero Waste* includes resources for learning and practicing the 4Rs.

We have included tips for packing a zero-waste lunch for your kids. Teachers, we have included free resources for bringing zero-waste programs into your classrooms.

Recology is here to help make this another great year and Keep San Benito Bonito!



RSBC driver Jose Villanueva and sixth-grader Julian D. in front of the collection truck displaying Julian's award-winning poster.

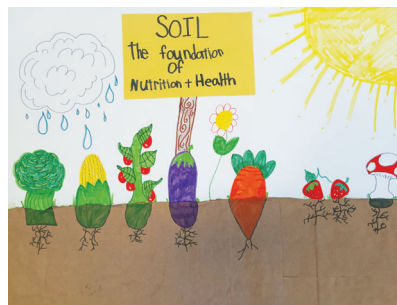
## Time to Get Creative

Get out your calendar because the 2025 Art Poster Contest is just around the corner. The theme is Keep San Benito Bonito.

Recology's annual contest features the artwork of 15 winners on our trucks for an entire year!



Thank you for your time,  
Recology Waste Zero Team  
**Adrian, Lisa, Crysta, Valeria**



Two of the 15 winning posters from the 2024 contest were created by first-grader Gia M. (left) and fourth-grader Frances F.

Winners also receive a prize package and are recognized by elected officials and other community dignitaries at the annual Earth Day event.

The 2025 contest deadline is March 14. Send an email request to [sbcwz@recology.com](mailto:sbcwz@recology.com) to be put on a list for future notifications, including detailed guidelines and an entry form.

We can't wait to see your posters!

## CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM!

Se habla español

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Messages left after hours will be returned the next business day.

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# BACK TO SCHOOL HELPERS



## RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

Every year Recology San Benito County sponsors outreach to schools and other youth-related groups. This can take many forms, depending on what teachers, parents, and students are looking for.



Following are just a few options:

- Assemblies for small groups or the entire school. Members of our team can come out and do fun 4R-focused —

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot — activities, or you can host a performance by a professional “edutainment” group.

- In-class poster-making workshops in the spring. The resulting artwork could be submitted for the Art Poster Contest.
- Our Recology coloring book...and more!

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH SBCIWM

Did you know San Benito County offers lots of resources for schools? The county’s Integrated Waste Management department has a great team eager to provide all of the following at no cost:

- Waste Assessments
- Recycling Containers
- Signage

Call 831.636.4110 or email [sbcicwm@sanbenitocountyca.gov](mailto:sbcicwm@sanbenitocountyca.gov) for more information.



County staff members like Laurie Tankersley can provide recycling containers like these for your school!

## MAKE IT A ZERO-WASTE LUNCH PLEASE

Packing a zero-waste lunch is easier and less expensive than you might think, especially once you get a system in place.



Here are five tips to help you get started:

- 1 **Buy reusable bags and wrappers** for sandwiches and snacks. A wide variety of products are available — from plastic bags you can clean in the dishwasher to beeswax-coated wrappers.
- 2 **Pack real utensils.** These can be stainless steel, bamboo, or plastic. Some come with their own carrying case and most are dishwasher safe.
- 3 **Use cloth napkins.** Find them online or make your own using fun fabric prints. (Pro tip: If sewing isn’t your thing, use pinking shears to help ensure the edges don’t fray.)
- 4 **Individual servings** of snacks, dips, fruit, and desserts often come in single-use plastic containers. Instead, **buy these items in bulk** and put them into your own reusable bags and containers. This also saves money because single servings tend to cost more than buying in bulk.
- 5 **Put water, juice, and other drinks in a reusable bottle** or Thermos™. Such a simple act could eliminate hundreds of plastic bottles per year.

Source: [EarthFriendlyTips.com](http://EarthFriendlyTips.com)