

## SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

This section describes how Alameda County will implement upstream solutions and circular economy principles to reduce the amount of waste generated in County operations. As this plan is implemented...



### Employees may notice:

- Single-use disposable items swapped out in favor of high-quality reusable products, such as reusable dishware in food service.
- Online and live trainings on reducing waste in the workplace,
- An updated Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy to expand sustainable products for County purchases.
- Rental or leasing programs for furniture and other durable goods instead of buying new.
- Borrowing programs for technical equipment, durable goods, and toolkits for County use.
- A plan to recover edible food in municipal food operations to benefit food-insecure populations.

### Everyone may notice:

- A litter abatement program that compensates individuals with barriers to traditional employment for litter clean-ups in County rights-of-way while developing self-sufficiency skills and connections to career opportunities.
- Increased access to County goods through a regional reuse network providing resale or giveaways of surplus County goods.

### What you can do:

- Do a waste audit of items you use often to identify single-use products you could change to reusable products.
- For special items that your organization needs for a limited time or for special occasions, consider leasing, renting, or borrowing instead of purchasing.
- Instead of purchasing new items like furniture and office supplies, use secondhand options when they are available.
- For information on recycling, composting, and what to do with specialty items, check out StopWaste's [Re:Source](#) tool.

The Sustainable Materials Management section starts at page 197 in the plan, found here:

[www.acgov.org/sustain/next/plan.htm](http://www.acgov.org/sustain/next/plan.htm)