

## Composting and Recycling at SolFest with Waste Busters

### Our Goal: Zero Waste

Biomimicry, or the imitation of nature in design, can be applied to human systems such as “waste” management. In nature, all “waste” is food for something else, not really waste at all. We are learning that we can make Zero Waste a reality on any scale by looking at waste as a valuable nutrient resource and using waste productively by putting it in the right place.



Waste Busters ([wastebusters.info](http://wastebusters.info)) will be assisting in getting the event towards Zero Waste by working with vendors to prevent waste, setting up collection stations at the event and sorting recyclables for maximum recovery.

### You can help

The event will be happily accepting your **ORGANIC** discards for composting on site. Please contribute your food scraps, food soiled paper and other once living items to one of our bins. We will be making nutritious fertilizer for the olives growing onsite, improving the soil with organic material content, increasing water absorption and retention, nutrient content and microbial life. **Composting is making waste = food for food.**

We will also recycle your bottles and cans. Please **crush your bottles and cans** to save space in the bin and vehicles. Crushing cans saves energy! There will also be limited collection of other recyclables on site.

Volunteering is caring and we will be happy to have you join us for some sorting at the party and during clean up. Come visit us at the resource recovery area by the main gate.

### Make a Plan

**Please make a plan for your camp in managing your own compost and recycling.** Appoint a person in your camp to be responsible for making sure discards are sorted and your camp is free from all microtrash including cigarette butts. Bring a bin for compost, recycling and landfill waste, label them clearly (or come visit the Waste Busters at the gate for help) and plan on packing out your landfill waste and recycling. Do a thorough sweep of your camp before leaving. Go upstream! Remember, it is better to reduce waste than to recycle - Bring a plate!

**Pacific Recycling Solutions** - 4200 North State Street, Ukiah (707 234-6400)

accepts all types of recyclables, except compost. They will take paper, cardboard, cans, glass, metal, and all plastics for recycling. There are also local recyclers that pay the California Redemption Value for your containers. Visit the Waste Busters area at the event for more info.

One strategy for managing hard to recyclable film plastics: **The PLD**. Stuff film plastic like bags and packaging into plastic soda or water bottles. You can fit an amazing amount of material into a bottle, using a stick to compress it. This reduces the volume substantially as well as keeps odors in. These full bottles are used in eco-construction projects, as bricks when tied together and cobbled or concreted over. Full PLDs will be accepted at the Waste Busters Resource Recovery Zone and the PLD camp.

**SMOKERS:** PLEASE use a **portable ashtray** if you are going to be smoking. Cigarette Butts are the #1 source of water pollution in CA and the largest component of microtrash at events. Smokers, please smoke responsibly and pack out your butts.

**Eating at Mystic Garden Party**

All vendors will be using compostable or recyclable food service ware, so please put them in the right place - a compost bin. Once again, it is better to reuse than to recycle, so the best option is to bring a plate and utensils to the event and pack them with you.

**Together, we can go beyond Zero Waste and make a restorative and regenerative society, working with nature to create bounty and abundance. Thank you for your cooperation and participation!**

- The Waste Busters Crew

