

Don't let waste-reduction drop off during summer

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During summertime it is easy to let your waste-reduction practices fall by the wayside as you enjoy your family gatherings and outings to the lakes and rivers.

The Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency is here to help reduce what you send to the landfill and to help enhance your recycling and reuse habits. Here are a few tips to get you started:

Choose to reuse. Pack food in reusable containers and bags.

Encourage Recycling by placing designated bins marked "cans and bottles" at your gathering. If you are having a large gathering, the agency loans out recycling bins at no cost to help collect as much recyclable material as possible.

Cut down on food waste by saving your tasty food for workweek lunches or giving some to your guests to take home.

Reduce waste by providing markers for guests to label their cups.

Nix disposable tableware and opt for cloth napkins and reusable dishes. Not only will it cut down on waste and save you money, but it will surely give your outdoor spread something extra.

Don't want to buy reusable dinnerware for large gatherings? The agency has a reusable dinnerware set that can accommodate up to 50 guests and can be reserved at no cost.

Refuel your fun. If you are camping and have stoves or lanterns that run off one-pound propane cylinders, opt for the refillable one-pound cylinders instead of the disposables.

Finally, do not forget to recycle. It is one of the easiest ways to reduce the amount of waste you send to the landfill. As an added benefit, it is cheaper than throwing it away and conserves natural resources.

While putting less in your trash can means less revenue for the landfill, recycling and the waste reduction activities mentioned above provide benefits such as extending the life of the landfill and conserving natural resources.

Diverting material from the landfill enables Tehama County to operate the landfill longer, keeping this valuable resource available for future generations.

For more information, or to reserve the reusable dinnerware set or recycling bins, call the agency at 528-1103 or write to tehamacountyrecycles@co.tehama.ca.us.