

# RESCAPE CALIFORNIA: REDUCE WASTE

ReScape California is a non-profit organization that educates about and advocates for a whole-systems approach to landscaping that works in harmony with the natural world and addresses the changing environment. ReScape's landscaping practices are based on 8 regenerative principles which foster soil health, sequester carbon, conserve water and protect habitat and valuable resources while reducing waste and preventing pollution in our communities and watersheds.



Our **Reduce Waste** principle reduces waste by choosing the right plants, avoiding invasive plant species, using recycled and salvaged products, and by composting, mulching and grasscycling. Landscapes designed and maintained with waste prevention in mind help reduce the tons of plant debris generated annually as well as the amount of embodied energy consumed by our landscapes.

## SIMPLE STEPS TO REDUCE WASTE

- 1. Select appropriate plants.** Choose plants that can grow to their natural size in the allotted space to reduce the need for pruning. Replace sheared hedges with natural shaped hedges. Avoid invasive species.
- 2. Keep plant debris on-site by composting, mulching and grasscycling.** Reusing plant trimmings improves soils, helps conserve water and keeps organic matter out of our landfills.
- 3. Prune selectively and properly.** Pruning should complement the natural form and strengthen the structural integrity of the plant.
- 4. Water carefully** to prevent rampant growth that weakens plants and generates unnecessary plant debris. Make certain water is going where it is intended; watering hardscapes and fences should be avoided.
- 5. Use salvaged items and recycled content materials** in your hardscapes and raised beds or simply to add an interesting design element.

## REDUCING WASTE PROTECTS OUR WATERSHED

- Composting and mulching reduces fossil fuel consumption resulting from hauling and processing plant debris off-site.
- Selecting plants that will thrive without unnecessary chemical inputs that contaminate the watershed reduces urban runoff and improper disposal.
- Avoiding invasive plants eliminates their inadvertent spread along creeks and rivers where they will need to be removed and disposed of.

### Need Help?

Hire a landscape professional trained in ReScape's 8 Principles. Visit our ReScape Qualified Landscape Professional Directory at [www.rescapeca.org](http://www.rescapeca.org)

### Join ReScape!

Be a part of California's regenerative landscape community by becoming a ReScape member. More details at [www.rescapeca.org](http://www.rescapeca.org)

### Resources:

Calscape Native Plant Nursery Directory. [www.calscape.org](http://www.calscape.org)  
California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers Directory. [www.cangc.org](http://www.cangc.org)  
Our Water Our World Eco-Friendly Product Locator. [www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org)  
Regional Water Authority. [www.bewatermart.info](http://www.bewatermart.info)



Published in a series of ReScape California's 8 Principles to Landscaping with support from Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership.