

# Fall Newsletter 2022

## Contra Costa Clean Water Program

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### Trash Talk

Did you know that illegal dumping costs the County of Contra Costa and our residents eight times more to clean up versus someone disposing of garbage properly? By properly disposing of unwanted materials, all of us can help cut costs while keeping our environment, community, and wildlife healthy.

Here are a few ways you can pitch in and do your part:

1. Visit [re:source](#) or call 1-800-750-4090 to learn how and where to properly dispose of item.
2. Call your garbage company to schedule free bagged waste and bulky pickup.
3. Participate in a local community clean and mattress drop-off events.
4. If you see illegal dumping, report it immediately by calling 1-800-NO DUMPING (1-800-663-8674) or by reporting it [online here](#).



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### Twix or Treat

Are the kids ready to have a howling good time trick-or-treating? Over 30 percent of trash in the U.S. comes in the form of packaging, which includes those fun sized candy wrappers that we buy in bulk during the Halloween season. Most candy wrappers are not recyclable because they are made of mixed materials, and are considered to be contaminated. Americans buy nearly **600 million pounds** of candy a year during the Halloween season. That's a lot of candy wrappers that may find themselves as litter or as pollution in our neighborhoods and waterways! Let's remind our kids (and grown-ups) to throw their candy wrappers away in the trash can this year or carry a container



to keep wrappers securely stored while going door-to-door. Have a fang-tastic and safe Halloween! 🎃  
👻 🦇 🕷️ Learn more at <https://bit.ly/cccleanwaterprogram>.

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## Catch of the Day



It's striped bass 🐟 season in the Bay Area, but did you know that it's not safe for women and kids to eat? Some fish, including striped bass, have high levels of PCBs and mercury, which can cause cancer and negatively affect brain development. It is especially important for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding to follow these guidelines. Learn more about what local fish are safe and not safe to eat at <https://bit.ly/fish-smart>

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## That's Just Crude

In the last few years, thousands of gallons of used motor oil 🚗 🛢️ have been dumped into storm drains, sink, or on the ground, contaminating millions of gallons of fresh water. It ends up polluting our lakes, rivers, delta and ocean, and ultimately affects the environment and our health. Be a part of the solution! Find a free used oil drop-off site near you and help protect our waterways. 🌊

<https://bit.ly/cc-stopwaste>

