

Love, Sustainability Style



So, you open your email one day and your significant other has popped the question: “Will you come with me to learn about [composting](#)?” This is a beautiful gesture of commitment you cannot ignore, so February 9th (10 a.m. – noon at Las Palmas Park) finds you holding hands while learning how leaves, food scraps, and shredded paper make a compost pile then planning how many pounds of red wigglers to buy and which compost bin will best meet your needs for food scrap collection at home.



After exchanging 100% recycled-content cards on the actual day and spending a romantic low-carbon-footprint Thursday evening at home, it’s time to plan the weekend and nothing says “love” like responsibly disposing of unneeded [household hazardous waste](#). No wait, really! I mean, you don’t want your beloved (person, pet, plants, fellow Earth creatures) to be eating, drinking, breathing or sitting next to toxic substances like unused pesticides, cleaners, or pool chemicals, right? How better to show that loving concern than stopping by the February Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event at 164 Carl Road in Sunnyvale. It’s on the Saturday after Valentine’s Day (Feb 16th, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.), a perfect day to celebrate. Just put the toxics in your trunk and let the trained professionals remove them for you while you hold hands in the front seat.



From there go on a little [hike](#)—you are already right at the [Baylands trailhead](#) adjacent to the Water Pollution Control Plant and you can take a stroll around the landfill hill. No wait, really! The landfill has been closed for years and it is all lovely and green at this time of year, flush with a wide array of birds, ground squirrels, and even rare burrowing owls. The view from the top is beautiful and you are sure to see an egret or a heron or two.



From there you still have time to head to the [Sunnyvale Farmers Market](#) to indulge in local food—from grass-fed beef to Brussels sprouts on the stalk, luscious oranges and artisanal tofu. Inspired by all that bounty, you might decide that it’s time to get some seeds started for your garden this year and you could head over to local certified Green Business [Summerwinds](#) nursery to plan for locally-grown bounty of your own.

Then, since it was a bit chillier than you expected out on your hike, maybe you stop by another [local green business](#), [Sports Basement](#), and pick up some extra warm togs to step out in style. You can even drop off shoes to get rid of (they’ll be moved along responsibly!) while you are there.



Your animal companion deserves love, too, though. Since you are on a local certified green business shopping spree already, why not round it out with a stop at [For Other Living Things](#) to pick up some wholesome pet food yummys?



The weekend is not over yet, though, and Sunday is a great day to go on a bike ride through town with a stop at Sunnyvale’s own local [Full Circle farm](#). What was once a sports field is now a working farm, and their produce stand has hours on Sundays from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., a perfect way to really put the “local” in eating local.



Warmed by the exercise of bicycling and aglow with the good feeling of living sustainably, you turn to your significant other and utter these inspiring words, “Honey, this is the year I’m going to take those old boxes of files to the next [shredding event](#) out at the [SMaRT Station](#) It’s on April 27th—won’t you come with me?”

