Living Green in El Dorado County



A Resource for Residents

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El Dorado County, California

El Dorado County, with a population of nearly 200,000 people, is one of 58 counties in California. Located in the east-central region of California, El Dorado County borders the state of Nevada to the east and the state capital of Sacramento to the west. The name "El Dorado," meaning "Golden One," represents El Dorado County's the center of the California Gold Rush in the late 1840s and 1850s.

El Dorado County spans an area of approximately 1,710 square miles and is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. El Dorado County's topography, therefore, is characterized by rolling hills to the west and a mountainous landscape to the east. About one million acres in the county are reserved for national forest land, including the Eldorado National Forest. This



provides residents and visitors with opportunities for recreation and appreciation of the county's natural environment. The Eldorado National Forest is home to various types of trout in its 620 miles of rivers, streams, and reservoirs. Several

species of reptiles, birds, rodents, and amphibians, along with black bears, mule deer, mountain lions, and coyote, can be found in the Eldorado.

Conserving the wildlife and environmental landscape of El Dorado County are important for maintaining the natural ecosystems that contribute to the economy and health of the county and its residents. This document serves to inform of the ways that you can contribute to nature conservation and live in harmony with the local environment of El Dorado County.

Sources:

El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce (https://eldoradocounty.org/work-and-live-in-el-dorado-county/)

El Dorado County website (https://www.edcgov.us/)

Eldorado - Special Places (usda.gov) (<u>https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/eldorado/specialplaces/?</u> cid=fsbdev7_019048&width=full)

U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: El Dorado County, California; United States (<u>https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/</u>fact/table/eldoradocountycalifornia,US/PST045219)

Maps from the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce (https://eldoradocounty.org/work-and-live-in-el-dorado-county/)

Acronyms

This booklet will use several acronyms to refer to commonly used terms or places that relate to green living. You can always refer back to this page for help

remembering the meaning of acronyms you come across throughout this booklet. The acronyms used in this booklet and the phrases they stand for are listed below in alphabetical order:

Acronym:	Definition:
ACEEE	American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy
ARC	American River Conservancy
CFL	Compact Fluorescent Light
CRV	California Redemption Value
EDC	El Dorado County
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERL	Eastern Regional Landfill
EV	Electric Vehicle
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
ITC	Investment Tax Credit
HEV	Hybrid Electric Vehicle
ннพ	Household Hazardous Waste
MRF	Material Recovery Facility
PHEV	Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle
PV	Photovoltaic
TTSD	Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal

Recycling in El Dorado County

What is recycling and what can I recycle?

Recycling is the process of collecting materials that would otherwise be disposed of as garbage and processing them to create new products. Recycling diverts waste from landfills and incineration and thus, reduces pollution. By recovering materials and reprocessing them into new items, we are also able to conserve natural resources and reduce the amount of energy needed for manufacturing products. Reusing materials decreases the need for obtaining, refining, and processing raw materials, which all require considerable amounts of energy. Additionally, recycling programs are important for the economy and are a source of jobs in the United States.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the following is a list of items that are commonly recyclable:

- Paper (newspapers, paper towels)
- Aluminum, steel cans
- Plastics
- Glass
- Used Oil
- Batteries
- Tires
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

HHW includes materials that easily catch on fire or that are reactive, unstable, explosive, corrosive, or toxic. Paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides are all considered HHW. HHW normally should not be disposed of in regular garbage or recycling bins. Instead, HHW can be dropped off at your solid waste company's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) or HHW disposal site. El Dorado County (EDC) Environmental Management also offers HHW Collection Events for EDC residents. You can call the EDC HHW Hotline at (530) 295-4100 for more information about these collection events or visit the EDC website (https://www.edcgov.us/) for specific event dates, times, and locations.

How can I recycle?

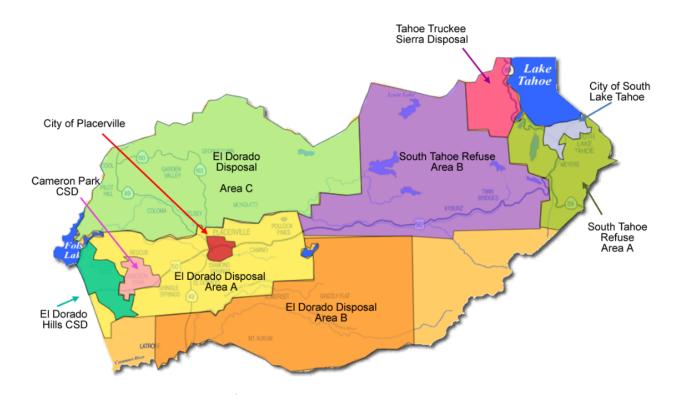
Recycling can easily be done from your own home. Check with your local recycling program for the kinds of materials that can be recycled in your area and how to recycle them from home. Items that cannot be recycled residentially, such as electronics or other hazardous waste materials, can be disposed of at specified drop-off sites.

Where can I recycle?

The figure below is a map showing the areas served by each solid waste company in EDC:

The following is a list of solid waste companies that offer recycling services throughout EDC:

- El Dorado Disposal
 - <u>Website</u>: <u>https://www.eldoradodisposal.com/</u>
 - Phone number: (530) 626-4141
 - Email: customerservice4030@wcnx.org
 - Areas served in EDC:



- Cameron Park
- City of Placerville
- Grizzly Flats
- Georgetown
- Coloma
- Unincorporated EDC communities
 - El Dorado Hills
 - Amber Fields
 - Cothrin Ranch
 - Fairplay
 - Mt. Aukum
 - Outingdale

- Somerset
- Pilot Hill
- Lotus
- Cool
- Garden Valley
- Greenwood



- <u>Recycling services</u>: El Dorado Disposal offers residential and commercial recycling services in EDC. El Dorado Disposal provides recycling carts in which you can place recyclable materials for collection.
 - El Dorado Disposal lists the following items as acceptable to place in recycling carts:
 - All California redemption value drink containers
 - Clean paper and mail

- Corrugated cardboard
- Cereal boxes (without the liner) / Shoe boxes
- Brown paper bags
- Newspaper and magazines
- Paperback books
- Catalogs, phone books
- Frozen food boxes
- Plastic bottles, jars and jugs with lids and caps removed
- Plastic dairy tubs (yogurt, margarine) with lids and caps removed
- All colors of glass jars, bottles and jugs with lids and caps removed
- Clean Aluminum foil or foil baking pans
- Aluminum cans
- Steel or tin cans
- El Dorado Disposal lists the following items as unacceptable to place in recycling carts:
 - Food scraps, food-soiled paper or boxes
 - Plastic trays (bakery, meat, etc.)
 - Styrofoam
 - Plastic bags
 - Prescription vials
 - Paper towels, plates or napkins
 - Disposable diapers or rags
 - Ceramics or dishes
 - Mirrors or window glass
 - Greasy or sharp scrap metal

- HHW, such as needles or syringes, light bulbs, and toxic containers (antifreeze, oil, syringes, etc.)
- These items, except for most HHW, can be disposed of in regular garbage carts. El Dorado Disposal offers curbside battery and oil pick up.
- Other HHW materials as well as electronic waste can be disposed of at El Dorado Disposal's MRF:
 - Hours for HHW drop off: Sunday Friday, 9AM 4PM
 - Hours for electronic waste drop off: 7 days a week, 8AM 5PM
 - <u>Address</u>: 4100 Throwita Way, Placerville, CA

Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD) Company

- Website: https://www.waste101.com/
- <u>Phone number</u>: (530) 583-7800
- <u>Areas served in EDC</u>: West Lake Tahoe Basin area, along State Route 89 from Tahoma to Emerald Bay

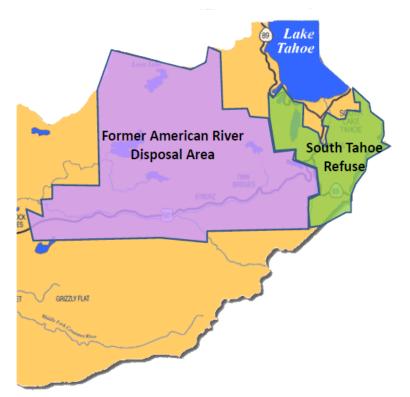


- <u>Recycling services</u>: TTSD provides commercial recycling services in EDC.
 Customers of TTSD can benefit from free recycling with the curbside Blue
 Bag Program. You can place your recyclables in blue plastic bags, tie
 them up, and place them next to your garbage can to be collected.
- TTSD lists the following items as acceptable to place in curbside Blue Bags:
 - Magazines, newspaper, clean cardboard
 - Plastics
 - Glass containers
 - Aluminum, bi-metal, and steel cans, clean aluminum foil
- TTSD lists the following items as unacceptable to place in curbside Blue Bags:
 - Contaminated Products (such as food storage containers that are not or cannot be cleaned)
 - Styrofoam

- Plastic Grocery Bags
- Ceramics, Wax or Plastic-Coated Cartons
- Rx/Prescription Bottles
- Windows, Drinking Glasses, Pyrex, Crystal, Mirrors, and Dishes
- Light Bulbs
- Items not acceptable for curbside recycling, except for lightbulbs, should be disposed of in regular garbage bins.
- Large recyclable items can be recycled in local community recycling containers or at the TTSD MRF. Items such as lightbulbs, batteries, and other hazardous materials can also be taken to the TTSD MRF, located at Hwy 89 & Cabin Creek Road Truckee, CA 96161.

• South Tahoe Refuse Company

- Website: https://southtahoerefuse.com/
- <u>Phone number</u>: (530) 541-5105
- Email: info@southtahoerefuse.com
- Areas served in EDC: South Lake Tahoe area



- <u>Recycling services</u>: South Tahoe Refuse Company offers a free curbside Blue Bag Recycling program to its customers. Simply place your recyclable materials in Blue Bags and place the Blue Bags next to your garbage can to be collected on regular pick-up days. Make sure your bags are tied and weigh less than 30 lbs.
- South Tahoe Refuse lists the following items as acceptable to place in curbside Blue Bags Blue Bags:
 - Paper and Cardboard (newsprint, magazines, cereal and tissue boxes, office paper, junk mail, envelopes, gift wrap)
 - Metals (aluminum/tin/bimetal cans, clean foil)
 - Glass (bottles, jars)
 - Plastic (water, soda, juice bottles, milk jugs, shampoo bottles, food storage containers, cleaning product bottles)
- South Tahoe Refuse lists the following items as unacceptable to place in curbside Blue Bags Blue Bags:
 - Mirrors
 Food waste
 - Windows & glassware
 Waxed cardboard
 - Photos and film
 - Plastic utensils Pens and pencils

Textiles

- Styrofoam
 Ceramics
- Hazardous waste products (paint, light bulbs/florescent bulbs/ Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL), solvents, motor oil, batteries, electronics)
- These items, except for hazardous waste products, should be disposed of in regular garbage bins.

- Hazardous waste items should be disposed of at the **HHW Building**:
 - <u>Phone number</u>: (530) 542-8368
 - <u>Open</u>: Tuesday 9AM 12PM and 1PM 4PM, Saturday 9AM 11AM
 - Address: 2140 Ruth Avenue South Lake Tahoe, California

Tips for Recycling

- Make sure all materials are placed in their appropriate containers or bags.
- Make sure items are clean before placing them in recycling bags or containers to prevent contamination of clean materials.
- Take everything out of bags to make sure all recyclable materials are placed loosely in recycling carts, containers, or Blue Bags.
- Keep lids of recycling carts closed, and make sure to tie bags to keep all materials clean and prevent mixing and contamination between trash and recyclable materials.

Recycling and Buy Back Centers

Buy Back involves exchanging your recyclable materials for cash. The following listed below are the Buy Back centers available across EDC:

• El Dorado Disposal

- Placerville
 - Offers California Redemption Value (CRV) Buy Back
 - Open: Tuesday Saturday, 9AM 3:30 PM
 - Address: 580 Truck Street, Placerville, Ca 95667

• El Dorado Hills

- Offers Buy Back for cans and bottles
- Open: Tuesday Saturday, 9AM 3:30 PM
- Address: 4421 Latrobe Rd, El Dorado Hills, Ca 95762

• Cameron Park

- Offers Buy Back for cans and bottles
- Open: Tuesday Saturday, 9AM 3:30 PM
- Address: 3500 Palmer Dr., Cameron Park, Ca 95682

Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal Company

- TTSD MRF
 - Offers Buy Back for California certified redemption materials, including aluminum cans and plastic bottles
 - <u>Open</u>: Monday Friday, 8AM 2PM
 - <u>Phone number</u>: (530) 583-7800
 - Address: Hwy 89 & Cabin Creek Road, Truckee, CA 96161

South Tahoe Refuse

- South Tahoe Recycling Buy-Back Center
 - Offers Buy Back for aluminum, glass and plastic marked with CRV, CA Cash Value, and CA Cash Refund
 - <u>Phone number</u>: (530) 542-8344
 - Open: Tuesday Saturday, 9AM 4PM
 - Address: 2192 Ruth Avenue South Lake Tahoe, California

• STR's Transfer Station Recycle Bin

• <u>Address</u>: 2140 Ruth Avenue, South Lake Tahoe, California

Sources:

El Dorado Disposal (<u>https://www.eldoradodisposal.com/</u>)

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events (edcgov.us) (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/

HazardousMaterials/pages/household_hazardous_waste_collection_events.aspx)

Household Hazardous Waste Collections Facilities (edcgov.us) (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/

HazardousMaterials/pages/household_hazardous_waste_collections_facilities.aspx)

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) | Hazardous Waste | US EPA (<u>https://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw</u>)

Household Hazardous Waste Fact Sheet (edcgov.us) (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/HazardousMaterials/ pages/household hazardous waste fact sheet.aspx) Recycling Basics | Reduce, Reuse, Recycle | US EPA (https://www.epa.gov/recycle/recycling-basics) Reduce Reuse and Recycle (edcgov.us) (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/pages/ reduce reuse and recycle.aspx) Solid Waste Collection and Disposal (edcgov.us) (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/pages/ solid waste collection and disposal.aspx) South Tahoe Refuse - Lake Tahoe Trash and Recycling. (https://southtahoerefuse.com/) Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal - TTSD (https://www.waste101.com/) What is Hazardous Waste - South Tahoe Refuse (https://southtahoerefuse.com/what-is-hazardous-waste/) Maps from: Waste Connections of California, Inc., dba El Dorado Disposal (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/ pages/el_dorado_disposal.aspx) South Tahoe Refuse Company (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/pages/ south tahoe refuse company.aspx) Tahoe Truckee Disposal, dba Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/ pages/tahoe truckee disposal.aspx) County of El Dorado Solid Waste Franchise Agreements (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/pages/

solid waste franchise area map.aspx)

Composting in El Dorado County

What is composting?

Composting is the process of decomposing organic materials together, while the term "compost" refers to the decomposed organic material that results from composting. Composting promotes the growth of microorganisms that break down materials such as plants and food scraps and creates nutrient-rich material that can be added to soil. By enriching soil, compost decreases the need for synthetic fertilizers and helps suppress plant diseases and pests. This, in turn, reduces the need for chemical pesticide use. Moreover, soil enrichment from compost improves the soil's ability to hold on to moisture, which not only conserves water, but also reduces runoff. Composting is also

important for the environment because it reduces the amount of space taken up in landfills, which decreases methane emissions. Additionally, by recycling organic resources and incorporating them back into the soil, composting can help you reduce your own carbon footprint.

How can I compost at home?

The EPA's website provides an easy way to remember the main components needed to compost:

- Browns (dead leaves, branches, twigs) provide carbon for your compost
- Greens (grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds) provide nitrogen
- Water provides moisture to help break down the organic materials

Thus, items that can be placed in your compost include the following:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Eggshells
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea bags
- Nut shells
- Shredded newspaper

- Leaves
- Yard trimmings and grass clippings
- Hay and straw

Houseplants

- Sawdust and wood chips
- Cotton and wool rags

Cardboard

Hair and fur

• Paper

Items that should NOT be placed in compost include the following:

- Dairy and meat products
- Fatty or starchy foods
- Bones and animal waste because they can attract pests or promote the growth of microorganisms that are harmful to humans.

Composting can be done in your own backyard and even indoors. To begin composting, you will need to choose a location to place your compost pile or bin. The compost pile can be placed in the shade or in sunlight; however, you must make sure to monitor the moisture of the pile. Add water if the pile is too dry, or add dry material, such as leaves, if it is too wet.

You can begin building your compost pile by layering brown and green materials with previously made compost to introduce important decomposers to your own compost. A foul odor indicates that the ratio of browns to greens, or the amount of water, might be off which could attract unwanted wildlife such as bears. Make sure that large materials, such as large pieces of food or vegetable waste, are cut into smaller pieces to facilitate the decomposition process.

You should also mix and turn the pile periodically to aerate the compost and provide an air supply for the decomposers, which helps speed up the composting process. The process can take anywhere from 2 months to a year, depending on how well you take care of the compost (maintaining its moisture, aerating it, etc.) and whether you keep adding materials to the same compost pile.

You can also take a look at the following Regional Recycling Backyard Composting Guide for more detailed information about composting: <u>https://</u> <u>www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/documents/</u> <u>RRG%20Composting%20Guide.pdf</u>

Green Waste Sites

The following is a list of solid waste companies that offer green waste and composting services throughout EDC:

• El Dorado Disposal

- El Dorado Disposal provides residential Yard Waste composting services.
 You can also visit their website for a Green Waste Processing and Composting quote for your area.
- To take advantage of the yard waste composting services, you can leave your yard waste in your curbside yard waste cart and place any extra yard waste in paper compostable bags. You can also drop off your yard waste at El Dorado Disposal's MRF.

- Items accepted in yard waste carts include the following:
 - paper compostable bags
 - plant material (grass and grass clippings, leaves, weeds, plant and tree trimmings, branches and twigs)
 - small trees
- Items NOT accepted in yard waste carts include the following:
 - Plastic/synthetic bags
 - Animal waste/litter or dead animals
 - Food waste/cardboard or household trash/litter
 - Loose soil/dirt
 - Rocks/gravel, cement/concrete, lumber/wood, bricks and tile, fencing materials, or construction debris
 - Metal
 - Garden tools, nursery pots
 - Tinsel, ornaments, flocking
 - Hazardous waste
- Make sure to visit their website for more detailed information.
- Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal Company
 - TTSD offers EDC Customers a one-time annual green waste coupon in their April 1st billing notice. This allows customers to take up to 3 yards of yard waste to the TTSD Eastern Regional Landfill (ERL) at the MRF for free. Make sure to bring proof of El Dorado residency when presenting your Green Waste coupon.
 - <u>Coupon drop-off days and times</u>: May 1 October 31, Monday Saturday, 8am - 4pm
 - Cardboard can be also dropped off at the TTSD MRF or in local community recycling containers.

South Tahoe Refuse

- South Tahoe Refuse offers free Green Waste drop-off for its customers.
- Green waste can be dropped off at the **Resource Recovery Facility**:
 - Address: 2121 Eloise Ave, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
- The Green Waste drop-off only accepts vegetation, such as weeds, leaves, branches, pine needles, and pinecones.
- The Green Waste drop-off does NOT accept:
 - Rocks, dirt, stumps
 Trash
 - Construction material
 Metal
 - Milled wood
 Plastic

Sources:

Composting At Home | Reduce, Reuse, Recycle | US EPA (https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home) Composting is Good for Your Garden and the Environment (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/ documents/UCANR%20Composting%20Guide.pdf) Composting: Recycling Landscape Trimmings | UGA Cooperative Extension (https://extension.uga.edu/publications/ detail.html?number=C981&title=Composting:%20Recycling%20Landscape%20Trimmings) El Dorado Disposal (https://www.eldoradodisposal.com/) Home Composting (ca.gov) (https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/HomeCompost/) Home Composting (edcgov.us) (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/pages/home_composting.aspx) RRG Composting Guide.pdf (edcgov.us) (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/documents/ RRG%20Composting%20Guide.pdf)

South Tahoe Refuse – Lake Tahoe Trash and Recycling. (<u>https://southtahoerefuse.com/</u>) Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal - TTSD (<u>https://www.waste101.com/</u>)

Electric Vehicles in El Dorado County

What are hybrid and electric vehicles?

Hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) run on both an internal combustion engine, which generates power by burning gasoline, and an electric motor, which uses energy stored in batteries. Instead of being charged by plugging in, the batteries in an HEV are charged by either the internal combustion engine or a process known as regenerative braking. Regenerative braking occurs when the energy produced from braking is captured by the electric motor and stored in the battery. The power from the electric

motor, in addition to the combustion engine, allows for a higher fuel economy and lower emissions while still maintaining the same power and range of traditional vehicles.

Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) are also powered by both an internal combustion engine and an electric motor. The difference between HEVs and PHEVs is that PHEVs can be plugged in to a power source to charge the battery and are able to run solely on electricity or solely on gasoline. In all-electric mode, PHEVs can travel between 20 to 40 miles, after which the vehicle will be powered by gasoline. The ability to run on all-electric mode decreases gasoline use and operating costs and can possibly reduce emissions when compared to traditional gasoline-powered vehicles.

Electric vehicles (EVs) are vehicles that run only on electricity with a battery and electric motor, as opposed to being powered by gasoline. Therefore, EVs do not directly produce emissions. Although power plants might produce more emissions in providing the electricity necessary to power the EV, total emissions from EVs are still lower than those produced by gasoline-powered cars.

Although EVs have a shorter driving range than traditional vehicles and require more time to recharge, they offer many benefits to the environment. If the energy used to power EVs is obtained from renewable sources, air pollution can drastically be decreased. Additionally, traditional vehicles can only convert between 12% to 33% of energy from gasoline into usable energy to power the vehicle. In contrast, EVs are very energy efficient, as they can convert 77% of electrical energy into energy for powering the vehicle.

What are the best electric and hybrid vehicles on the market now?

According to a study done by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) using the GreenerCars ratings, the 12 greenest electric and hybrid vehicles of 2021 are listed below:

Rank	Vehicle Make and Model	Vehicle Type
1	Hyundai Ioniq Electric	EV
2	MINI Cooper SE Hardtop	EV
3	Toyota Prius Prime	PHEV
4	BMW i3s	EV

5	Nissan Leaf	EV
6	Honda Clarity	PHEV
7	Hyundai Kona Electric	EV
8	Kia Soul Electric	EV
9	Tesla Model 3 Standard Range Plus	EV
10	Toyota RAV4 Prime	PHEV
11	Toyota Corolla Hybrid	HEV
12	Honda Insight	HEV

The website <u>truecar.com</u> also lists the top 10 best hybrid vehicles based on efficiency, performance, utility, technological features, comfort, and amenities:

Rank	Vehicle Year, Make, and Model
1	2022 Hyundai Tucson
2	2021 Toyota Highlander
3	2021 Hyundai Elantra
4	2021 Toyota Sienna
5	2021 Ford Escape
6	2021 Hyundai Sonata
7	2021 Kia Sorento
8	2021 Hyundai Ioniq
9	2021 Ford Explorer
10	2021 Honda Accord

Tesla

Depending on where you live in EDC, you may be able to visit a Tesla location outside EDC to purchase a Tesla EV. The list below provides information about the Tesla locations closest to El Dorado County:

Sacramento-Rocklin Tesla

• Phone number: (916) 652-7740

- Open: Monday Saturday, 10AM 6PM, Sunday 11AM 6PM
- o Address: 4361 Granite Drive, Rocklin, CA 95677

Sacramento Tesla

- <u>Phone number</u>: (916) 830-2191
- Open: Monday Saturday, 10AM 7PM, Sunday 10AM 6PM
- o Address: 2535 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA 95825-2413

• Reno-Virginia Street Tesla

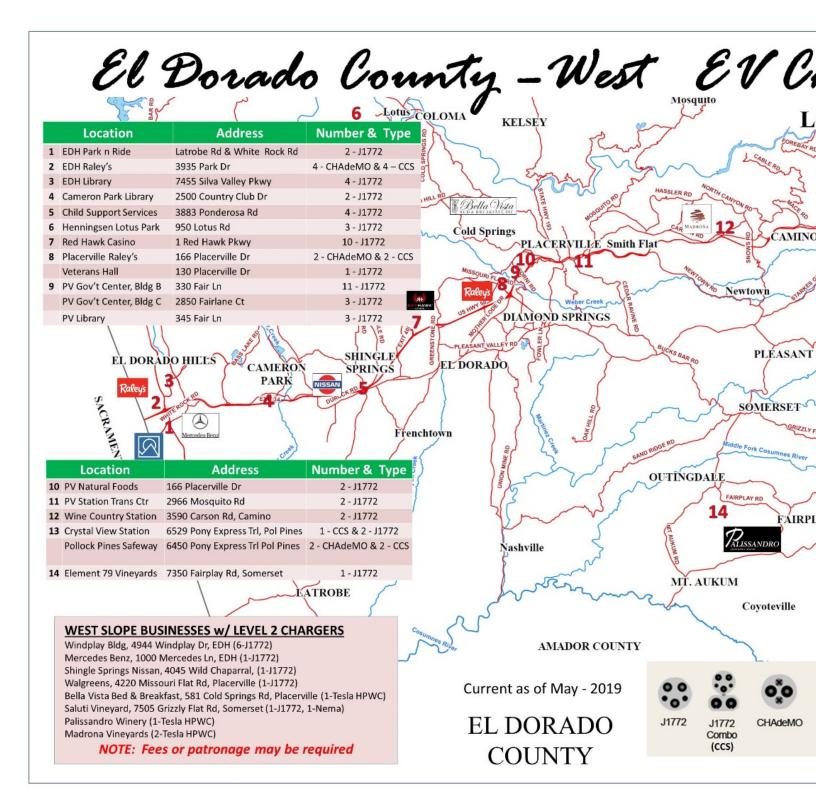
- Phone number: (775) 453-7957
- Open: Monday Saturday, 10AM 6PM, Sunday 11AM 6PM
- Address: 9732 S Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89511-5941

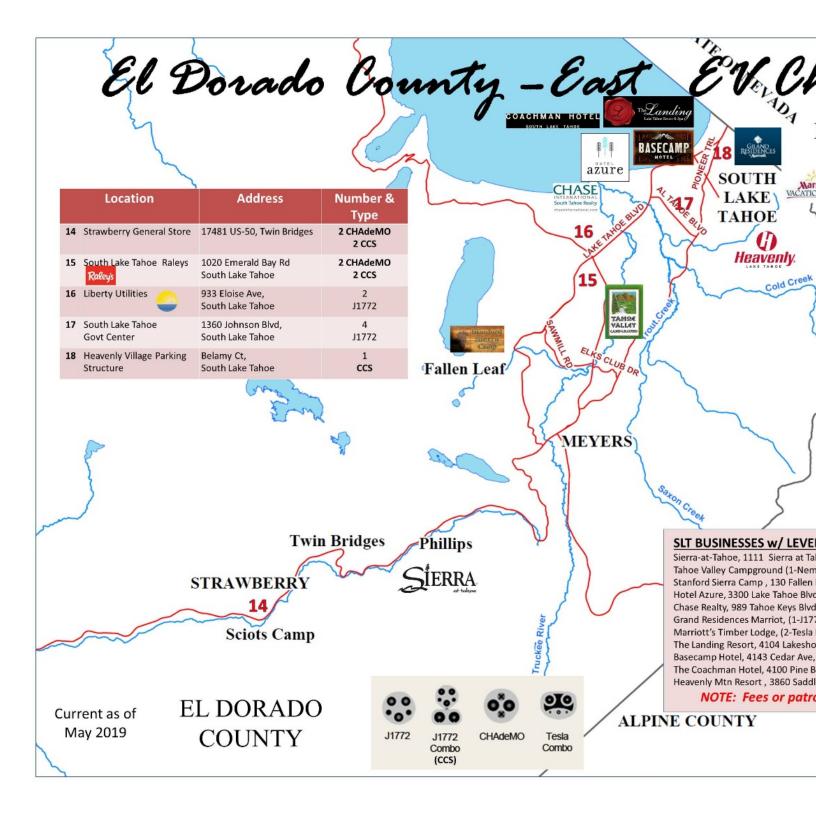
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The two EDC EV Chargers maps on the following pages depict the available EV charging stations throughout EDC.

Sources:

All-Electric Vehicles (fueleconomy.gov) (https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/evtech.shtml) Alternative Fuels Data Center: How Do All-Electric Cars Work? (energy.gov) (https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/how-doall-electric-cars-work) Alternative Fuels Data Center: Hybrid and Plug-In Electric Vehicles (energy.gov) (https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/ electric.html) Alternative Fuels Data Center: Hybrid Electric Vehicles (energy.gov) (https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/ electric_basics_hev.html) Clean Machines: The 12 'Greenest' Cars For 2021 (forbes.com) (https://www.forbes.com/sites/jimgorzelany/ 2021/02/23/clean-machines-the-12-greenest-cars-for-2021/?sh=1994113a44ac) Electric_vehicles (edcgov.us) (https://www.edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement/pages/ electric_vehicles.aspx) Explaining Electric & Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles | Green Vehicle Guide | US EPA (https://www.epa.gov/ greenvehicles/explaining-electric-plug-hybrid-electric-vehicles) TrueCar | Best Hybrids (https://www.truecar.com/best-cars-trucks/fuel-hybrid/) US Tesla Stores and Galleries | Tesla (https://www.tesla.com/findus/list/stores/United%20States) Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (edcgov.us) (<u>https://www.edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement/Pages/evs.aspx</u>)





Solar Panels in El Dorado County

What are solar energy and solar panels?

Renewable energy sources such as solar energy are beneficial for the environment because they are inexhaustible and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as well as air and water pollution. Finite fossil fuel resources are rapidly being depleted and contribute to land degradation when excavated. Solar energy is better for the environment because it would help conserve these fossil fuel resources and reduce disturbances to natural landscapes and habitats from fossil fuel excavation.

Solar, or photovoltaic (PV), panels convert light energy captured from the sun into electrical energy that can be stored in batteries or used for powering homes and businesses. Solar panels consist of many smaller solar cells that work together to absorb solar radiation and convert it into electricity. Solar energy is important because it decreases electricity costs over time, promotes a more reliable energy grid, and creates jobs, thus boosting the economy.

Solar Panel Installation

There are several companies throughout EDC that offer solar panel installation services. According to the website EnergySage, solar panels in EDC, on average, cost \$2.96 per watt; therefore, for a solar panel system of 5 kilowatts, the installation cost would range between \$12,580 and \$17,020, with an average gross price of \$14,800. This does not, however, take into account the federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC). The ITC is currently a 26% tax credit implemented to motivate the installation of solar panels. Other monetary solar energy incentives may also apply to reduce the price of your solar panel installation. The average estimated payback period to recover the solar energy investment in EDC is 5.69 years, and the average estimated savings over 20 years is \$73,397.

Before installation, you may also want to think about the type of solar panels you would like for your home. There are 3 types of solar panels, which are (1) monocrystalline solar panels, (2) polycrystalline solar panels, and (3) thin film solar panels. Monocrystalline panels are the most expensive kind of solar panel; however,

they are also the most popular and efficient type. Due to their high efficiency, monocrystalline panels require less space than the other solar panel types. Polycrystalline panels are less efficient than monocrystalline panels, but are also cheaper, although not by much. Thin film panels are lightweight and flexible but are also the least durable and least efficient of all the solar panel types. As a result, thin film panels require more space and are normally used for large industrial buildings. Therefore, the best options for residential properties are monocrystalline and polycrystalline panels. The chart below from *8MSolar* summarizes the different types of solar panels and their characteristics:



Solar Panel Installers

There are several companies in and around EDC that offer solar panel installation services. Below you will find a list of solar installers that offer services to the residents of EDC:

- Gold Rush Energy Solutions
 - Gold Rush Energy Solutions provides services and products such as

- Whole Home Solar Installation
- Ground Mounted Solar Installation
- Home Resiliency Packages
- EV Charging Stations
- DIY Solar Installation Packages, Assistance, and Support

You can schedule a virtual appointment for a consultation on their website, or you can answer a few questions online for a free quote.

- Website: https://www.goldrushenergy.com/
- <u>Phone number</u>: (866) 557-6937
- Open: Monday Saturday, 6AM 9PM
- o Address: 4911 Windplay Dr. Suite IV, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Sunworks

- Sunworks works with you in the consultation, design, permitting, installation, and activation of household solar panels through their company Solcius. You can receive a free solar quote by visiting their website.
- <u>Websites</u>: <u>https://sunworksusa.com/</u>

https://www.solcius.com/

- <u>Phone number</u>: (866) 600-6800
- Email: info@sunworksusa.com
- <u>Open</u>: Monday Friday, 8AM 5PM
- o Address: 2270 Douglas Blvd., Ste 216, Roseville, CA 95661

Tahoe Solar Designs

- Tahoe Solar Designs creates a home solar energy system customized based on your location and energy needs. Tahoe Solar Designs serves the South Lake Tahoe Basin and surrounding areas.
- <u>Website</u>: <u>https://www.tahoesolardesigns.com/</u>
- <u>Phone number</u>: (530) 542-0780
- Email: solar@tahoesolardesigns.com
- Address: 2255 Del Norte St, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-7224

• Sunrun

- Sunrun offers its customers either a monthly or full lease, a full purchase, or a monthly loan plan for financing household solar panels. Sunrun Brightbox is also available as a solar battery storage that can provide power through outages. You can call or visit their website to discuss or view personalized options for your home energy needs.
- <u>Website</u>: <u>https://www.sunrun.com/solar-by-state/ca</u> <u>https://www.sunrun.com/</u>
- <u>Phone number</u>: (916) 431-0220
- o Address: 1227 Striker Ave Sacramento, CA 95834
- Sunrise Solar Roofing
 - Sunrise Solar Roofing offers custom home solar panel installation for homes that are in the process of being built. Sunrise Solar Roofing takes part in the design, permitting, installation, monitoring, utility, and grid interconnection of residential solar panels. More information can be found by calling or visiting their website.
 - <u>Website</u>: <u>https://www.sunrisesolarroofing.com/</u>
 - <u>Phone number</u>: (916) 635-3000
 - Email: david@sunrisesolarroofing.com
 - Open: Monday Friday, 8AM 4PM
 - Address: 3195 Fitzgerald Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

• ACR Solar

- ACR Solar offers services in the Sacramento and surrounding area. SCR solar can provide solar electricity and water heating with the solar panel brands Silfab, Solaria, and Enphase. You can schedule a consultation or installation with their scheduling system by phone or online.
- <u>Website</u>: <u>https://acrsolar.com/</u>
- Phone number: (916) 481-7200
- Email: info@acrsolar.com
- <u>Open</u>: Monday Friday, 8AM 5PM
- Address: 5840 Gibbons Drive, Suite H, Carmichael, CA 95608

SunPower

- Sunpower uses SunPower solar panels and Tesla Powerwall II technology for installing residential solar systems. More information about specific energy savings, quotes, design, and consultation can be found on their website.
- <u>Website</u>: <u>https://us.sunpower.com/</u> <u>https://sunpowerca.com/?utm_source=GMB&utm_medium=</u> organic&utm_campaign=auburn
- Phone number: (855) 466-5332
- <u>Address</u>: 5150 Commons Dr #103, Rocklin, CA 95677
 4035 Grass Valley Hwy D, Auburn, CA 95602

Sources:

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solar-panels.html)

Chart from:

The Three Types of Solar Panels | 8MSolar (https://www.8msolar.com/types-of-solar-panels)

Conservation Groups in El Dorado County

The conservation groups that you can join in EDC are listed below:

• League to Save Lake Tahoe

• The mission of the League to Save Lake Tahoe is to protect and restore the environmental health of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The League hopes to preserve the beauty, clarity, and water quality of the Lake Tahoe Basin for future generations. Lake Tahoe is known for its clarity of up to 60 feet deep because of the marshes and meadows in the Lake Tahoe Basin that filter the water entering the Lake; however, the Lake's depth of clarity is decreasing due to several threats. To address the major threats of urban stormwater pollution, climate change, and invasive species, the League focuses on three main campaigns to maintain Lake Tahoe's clarity and ecosystem: (1) Combat Pollution, (2) Advance Restoration, and (3) Tackle Invasive Species. You can contribute to the League's mission by becoming a member, volunteering, or donating to their cause. The League's volunteer program includes opportunities to participate in beach cleanups, aquatic invasive plant reporting, and restoration efforts.

- <u>Website</u>: <u>https://www.keeptahoeblue.org/</u>
- <u>Phone number</u>: (530) 541-5388
- Email: info@keeptahoeblue.org
- Address: 2608 Lake Tahoe Boulevard South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Sierra Club

- The Sierra Club is an environmental organization that has different chapters throughout the country. The chapters that represent EDC Sierra Club members are listed below:
- Mother Lode Chapter
 - Some environmental issues that the Mother Lode Chapter is working on include fracking, dam construction, the pumping of water out of the Delta, the endangerment of wolves, and the clearcutting of the Sierra Nevada. A member of the Sierra Club can volunteer, join board meetings, sign online petitions, participate in outings, and sign letters to local politicians. More information about the specific ways you can participate in the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club can be found at the website below:
 - Website: <u>https://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode</u>
 - Phone number: (916) 557-1100 ext. 1080
 - <u>Email</u>: <u>Info@MLC.sierraclub.org</u>
 - Address: 909 12th Street, Suite 202, Sacramento, CA 95814

• Tahoe Area Chapter

 The Tahoe Area Sierra Club represents Sierra Club members in the Lake Tahoe Basin, South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City, and Truckee.
 The Tahoe Area Sierra Club aims to protect the natural environment in the Lake Tahoe Basin and Truckee River watershed system. The main environmental issues addressed by the Tahoe Area Sierra Club are the pollution and ecological invasion of Lake Tahoe and the development of Washoe Meadows State Park and areas near the Tahoe Basin. The Tahoe Area Chapter educates and involves community members in conservation efforts and local environmental issues. You can participate through volunteer opportunities, such as outreach and membership meetings, outdoor and community events, assisting with outreach, and contributing to conservation projects.

- <u>Website</u>: <u>https://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/tahoe</u>
- <u>Email</u>: <u>tahoegroupsierraclub@gmail.com</u>

• Tahoe Climate Change Action Network

- The Tahoe Climate Action Change Network is based in South Lake Tahoe and focuses on education and group action in the community. You can participate in the Network by attending hosted discussions on climate change and climate change solutions, watching their climate change webinar series, reaching out and connecting with the organization and its members, and writing letters to elected officials to show and encourage support for environmental action at the governmental level.
- Website: https://tahoeclimatechangeactionnetwork.org/
- <u>Phone number</u>: (530) 605-7222
- Email: sarajletton@gmail.com

Sacramento Audubon Society

- The Sacramento Audubon Society is run by volunteers and based in Sacramento, where there are over 400 bird species. The Society's mission is to educate the public about the environment and promote the conservation of the natural habitats of wild birds in the Sacramento area. To contribute to this mission, volunteers can attend meetings and participate in education, community outreach, land stewardship, and conservation programs and endeavors.
- <u>Website</u>: <u>https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/</u>
- Email: president@sacramentoaudubon.org
- Address: P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95818-0694

• El Dorado Community Foundation

- The El Dorado Community Foundation works with donors to connect them with charitable causes and nonprofit organizations, including environmentally focused organizations. The Foundation also offers grants and scholarships, which you can apply for through their website. Members can participate in educational and community events hosted by the El Dorado Community Foundation. Their website offers more information about upcoming nonprofit community events and partnerships with local environmental organizations.
- <u>Website</u>: <u>https://eldoradocf.org/</u>
- o Phone number: (530) 622-5621
- Email: info@eldoradocf.org
- o Address: 312 Main Street, Suite 201, Placerville, CA 95667

• American River Conservancy

- The American River Conservancy's (ARC) conservation efforts are focused on preserving the biodiversity, habitats, beauty, and recreation provided by the Consumes River Watershed, the American River Watershed, and the Pine Hill Preserve. By doing so, the ARC has been able to protect more than 27,500 acres of land. The ARC is also committed to stewardship and providing environmental education programs to motivate action and human connection to the environment. The ARC hosts school field trips, homeschool programs, summer camps, group hikes, workshops, river cleanups, and other volunteering events and opportunities. You can visit their website for more information about how you can volunteer and contribute to their cause.
- <u>Website</u>: <u>https://www.arconservancy.org/</u>
- Phone number: (530) 621-1224
- Email: julie@ARConservancy.org
- Address: 348 Highway 49, Coloma, California 95613

Sugar Pine Foundation

- The Sugar Pine Foundation works to restore sugar and other white pine 0 populations in the Lake Tahoe area from blister rust, which is a fungus that infects trees and kills over 95 percent of the trees it infects. The Sugar Pine Foundation's work includes collecting cones from pines that are resistant to blister rust and sending them to be tested for blister rust gene resistance. The seeds are then planted to promote the growth of a pine tree generation that is resistant to blister rust. This can help maintain natural habitats, species diversity, and forest resilience and reduce sedimentation into Lake Tahoe. Volunteers, including school-age children, can join the Sugar Pine Foundation to plant blister rust-resistant pine seeds every fall and spring. The organization provides educational resources on its website and emphasizes the importance of their work in educating the local community on environmental stewardship and conservation. You can also get involved from home by planting your own pine seed or seedling, which can be purchased on the Sugar Pine Foundation website.
- Website: https://sugarpinefoundation.org/
- <u>Phone number</u>: (650) 814-9565
- Email: admin@sugarpinefoundation.org
- o Address: 1458 Mt. Rainier Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
- Sierra Wildlife Rescue
 - The Sierra Wildlife Rescue's mission is to protect the county's wildlife by rescuing, rehabilitating, and safely releasing injured and orphaned animals that are native to EDC. Examples of species that have been rescued include the Great Horned Owl or the Red Shouldered Hawk. The Sierra Wildlife Rescue is also committed to public education efforts through the development of education programs and wildlife classes that are open to the public. You can help contribute to the Rescue's mission by calling their Wildlife Helpline when you encounter an injured or orphaned animal or by volunteering in direct animal care, educational programs, fundraising,

administration, or communications. Their website lists the specific ways in which you can begin helping and getting involved.

- Website: https://sierrawildliferescue.org/
- <u>Phone number</u>: (530) 621-2020

(530) 621-4661 for the Wildlife Helpline

o Address: 777 Pleasant Valley Rd, Diamond Springs, CA 95619

Sierra Nevada Alliance

- The Sierra Nevada Alliance aims to combat climate change and protect and restore the Sierra Nevada forests, watersheds, and wildlife. The Alliance's Climate Resiliency Program works towards both climate mitigation and adaptation by establishing plans that increase renewable energy and reduce GHG emissions. The Alliance also prioritizes the protection and restoration of forest and watershed ecosystems. You can join the Alliance by visiting their online Action Center, attending an event, or joining an Alliance Member Group dedicated to the conservation of the Sierra. You can find a directory of environmental organizations that are Member Groups on the Sierra Nevada Alliance website.
- Website: https://sierranevadaalliance.org/

https://sierranevadaalliance.org/conservation-directory/

- Phone number: (530) 542-4546
- <u>Email</u>: <u>info@sierranevadaalliance.org</u>
- o Address: 3079 Harrison Ave., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Sources:

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Tips for Living Green

Saving Water

Water is a very valuable resource that serves many uses in our daily lives. Water is used for cleaning, cooking, and drinking and is important for growing food. Water helps regulate global temperatures and sustains life and the ecosystems on Earth; however, water is often wasted and misused in U.S. homes. The average person in the U.S. uses 170 gallons of water per day, but only 0.3% of the water on Earth is available for human use. This makes it even more important to find ways to conserve the Earth's clean water supply.

Reach out to your local water supplier as they may have a program providing free water audits in which an expert can give you personalized tips for water conservation at your home. Listed below are a few tips for how you can save water in your own home:

- Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth, lathering your hands, washing the dishes, or shaving.
- Make sure faucets are completely off when you are done using them.

- Fix any leaks in your home, such as faucet, hose, pipe, showerhead, or toilet leaks. Below are some ways you can discover leaks in your home:
 - Add food coloring to the toilet tank. If the same color appears in the toilet bowl without flushing, there is a leak.
 - Use a home water meter. If your water meter does not read the same after not using water in your home for a certain period of time, there may be a leak.
 - Use your water bill. If your water bill seems higher than it should, a water leak may be the problem.
- Take a shower instead of a bath. Try to aim for a short, 5-minute shower.
- Turn of the shower when lathering.
- Use the dishwasher on a full load instead of washing dishes by hand.
- Scrape instead of rinsing your dishes before putting them into the dishwasher.
- Use the washing machine or the dishwasher only when you have full loads.
- Do not overwater your lawn or plants, or consider converting your lawn to a xeriscape.
- Avoid watering the lawn or outdoor plants on rainy days.
- Water your plants manually, near the roots, and when there is no wind to prevent water waste or overwatering.
- Water plants in the morning or evening, when there is less heat and sunlight, to prevent rapid evaporation of the water.
- Select plants for your home that do not require much water.
- Capture and reuse rainwater.
- Use a broom instead of water to clean your driveway or garage.
- Use a bucket instead of a hose to clean your car.
- Reduce your food waste and your meat and dairy consumption and eat seasonally to decrease water-intensive food production.

- Generating energy requires large amounts of water used for cooling; therefore, you can conserve water by reducing the amount of energy you use. Here are a few tips for reducing your energy use while also saving water:
 - Use cold instead of hot water.
 - Boil only the water that you need.
 - Refrain from using the garbage disposal. Compost your food waste instead.
- Use water and energy saving appliances and devices for your home.

Best Water and Energy Saving Gadgets

Below is a list of devices, appliances, and gadgets that can help you save water or energy in your home and everyday life:

- Dual flush toilets
- Smart sprinklers
- Low flow appliances, such as low flow showerheads, toilets, and faucets
- Replace old equipment, such as dishwashers, air conditioners, and refrigerators, with energy-efficient devices.
- Energy monitor to keep track of your home energy use
- Eco-chargers, which power off once your device is fully charged, or solar chargers, which are powered by solar energy
- Electric lawn mowers
- Solar panels
- LED light bulbs
- Smart sockets, which can automatically cut off power to devices that are not in use
- Smart thermostats, such as the Nest Learning Thermostat

Living Plastic Free

Plastic is commonly used because it is a very versatile material. Nevertheless, the widespread use of plastic has resulted in more than half of all plastic produced ending up in landfills or the environment, which negatively affects Earth's ecosystems. For example, plastic has been shown to be especially harmful to aquatic organisms, as plastic can entangle and suffocate marine wildlife. Plastic also leaches toxic chemicals into soil and is often ingested by organisms in the form of microplastics, resulting in adverse health effects to wildlife. One of the best solutions to this problem is to keep plastic waste out of our landfills and ecosystems by reducing the amount of plastic we use. Listed below are just some ways in which you can live a more plastic free lifestyle and contribute to a cleaner, safer Earth:

- Use reusable items instead of disposable plastic items:
 - Use your own reusable shopping bag instead of plastic bags provided in stores.
 - Use a reusable water bottle instead of single-use plastic water bottles.
 - Use a reusable lunchbox and reusable containers to pack your lunch instead of disposable or single-use plastic containers.
 - Use silverware and reusable dishes instead of disposable utensils and dishes.
 - Buy reusable straws or refrain from using straws instead of using singleuse plastic straws.
- When you travel, consider drinking the local tap water instead of purchasing bottled water.
- Eat at home instead of eating take-out.
- Carry your own reusable containers with you to store leftover when eating out.
- Make your own food, such as bread, plant milk or snacks, instead of buying products that normally come in plastic packaging.
- Buy your food at a farmers' market, deli, or bakery, where less packaging is generally used for products than at supermarkets or grocery stores.

- Buy glass instead of plastic containers to store leftovers at home.
- Buy in bulk to reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging.
- If given an option, buy products in glass or metal packaging or containers instead of plastic.
- Use aluminum foil or parchment paper instead of plastic alternatives.
- Use bar soap instead of liquid soap, which normally comes in large plastic containers.
- Use metal instead of plastic hangers.

Sources:

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