

# BURBANK WASTE WARRIOR PROGRAM



## FREE RESIDENT ZEROWASTE TRAINING

STARTS  
SATURDAY  
JANUARY 17, 2026

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RECYCLE  
CENTER

## IN A THROW “AWAY” SOCIETY, WHERE IS AWAY?

The Waste Warrior program takes a deep dive on what “away” means. Classes focus on helping the public fully understand how recycling works and why “reduce and reuse” should be the priority. Students will also learn that zero waste is more about changing what's possible rather the unrealistic idea of creating no waste. This includes manufacturers redesigning their products to give consumers better choices.

This free program includes eight classes highlighting the 8 Rs of waste reduction:

- **Rethink** (*redesign systems, habits & mindsets*)
- **Refuse** (*say no to unnecessary waste*)
- **Reduce** (*share it, rent it, borrow it*)
- **Reuse** (*refill, repurpose*)
- **Recycle** (*remanufacture used materials*)
- **Return** (*give nutrients back to nature*)
- **Repair** (*fix, mend, restore*)
- **Regulation** (*manufacturer responsibility, policy, packaging recyclability*)

Classes include in-depth analysis, policy overview, and historical perspectives on waste and recycling. Expect lively discussions, hands-on learning, tours, guest speakers, and instruction from the professionals at the Burbank Recycle Center.

## BECOME A CHANGE AGENT

Waste Warriors that complete all eight classes and thirty hours of volunteer time will receive a graduation certificate and recognition by the Burbank City Council. Community projects may focus on waste reduction, thoughtful consumption, composting, or recycling.



# CLASS SCHEDULE

*All classes will be held at the Burbank Recycle Center,  
500 S. Flower Street, unless there is a tour or special engagement*

## PHASE ONE: CLASSES AND COURSE WORK

*All Waste Warrior students will be required to sign up for SLACK, a free cloud-based proprietary instant messaging platform. We use this for communication, updates, and class prep reading instead of email.*

Class homework involves course-related reading, internal forum chats, and conducting one class project.

### CLASS 1: SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 – 9AM-3PM

*Recycling 101: There's No Such Thing as "Away"*

Learn the realities about waste with a day filled with hands-on activities, including a tour of the Burbank Recycle Center and a waste sorting exercise. You'll leave with a clearer understanding of the recycling process, which will help clear up the confusion about what is recyclable and why.

### CLASS 2: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 – 6PM-8:30PM

*Single Use, Multiple Impacts: Recycling's Limits*

Students will look at how modern conveniences and our throw-away culture is leading to a global increase in resource depletion, overproduction, and waste that has overwhelmed the disposal system. The class includes a world view of packaging design and plastic resins, and why these often conflict with their "recyclability" claims.



**“WE DON’T NEED A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE  
DOING ZERO WASTE PERFECTLY.  
WE NEED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE DOING  
IT IMPERFECTLY” – Anne Marie Bonneau**

### **CLASS 3: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - 9AM-1PM**

*Power to the Plants: Valuing Organic Material*

Instead of waste, food and landscaping trimmings are now viewed as resources for building soil, generating power, and reducing harmful emissions. Students will learn the steps California is taking to recycle them in order to harness their value.

### **CLASS 4: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - 9AM-1PM**

*Consumption Grave site: Burbank Landfill Tour (field trip)*

You'll see what happens after your trash is picked up and taken "away." Take a VIP look of one of the best managed and scenic landfills in the country, tucked away in the Verdugo Hills.

### **CLASS 5: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 - 6PM-8:30PM**

*Handling Difficult Materials: Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), Electronics & Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)*

Managing the disposal of hazardous and other difficult products at the end of their useful life is more complicated and costly than consumers realize. This class provides an overview of local household hazardous waste collection, recycling, and reuse programs.

### **CLASS 6: SATURDAY, MARCH 14 - 9AM-1PM**

*ReTHINK: Trash as Treasure (field trip)*

One of the most important "R's", reuse delivers far greater environmental and societal benefits than recycling. On this field trip you'll meet businesses and nonprofits that are proving that there is still value in discarded treasures.



## **CLASS 7: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 - 6PM-8:30PM**

*Business Responsibility: Moving the focus upstream.*

An examination of the true cost of doing business if sustainable practices are not factored in the production and delivery of goods and services.

## **CLASS 8: SATURDAY, MARCH 28 - 9AM-1PM**

*Leadership Challenge: Using Your Skills for Local Action*  
Throughout the Waste Warrior classes, project ideas and inspirations will pop up. This class is devoted to moving inspirations into action, drawing on your experiences and talents.

### **BONUS EVENT: DINNER AND A DOC!**

Meet former graduates of the Waste Warrior program while enjoying a zero-waste dinner and an insightful documentary on an important waste issue. Great opportunity to network, share, and find kindred spirits that care about the same issues you do.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 31 - 6PM-8:30PM**

## **PHASE TWO: GROUP PROJECT AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING (APRIL-DECEMBER)**

*Take your new skills and put them to work on a fulfilling group project for the Burbank Recycle Center, as well as any personal project you may have at your own pace. (30 hours total).*



**TO REGISTER:**  
**BURBANKRECYCLE.ORG**  
*(go to the Events page)*



## HOW WASTE WARRIORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Waste Warriors are building a network of engaged residents with an insider's view of the realities of managing waste and what is needed to create more resilient systems.

Students are empowered to help raise awareness and educate their community by:

- *Speaking to friends, neighbors, and local groups*
- *Working on a Burbank Recycle Center team project*
- *Organizing waste prevention and recycling projects*
- *Engaging businesses and residents at events*
- *Boosting existing recycling programs at schools, businesses, and organizations*
- *Volunteering and giving back*

## FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

Amy Hammes, Recycling Specialist

AHammes@burbankca.gov

818-238-3900

## ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Class is limited to 25 Burbank residents.

Non-residents will be put on a waiting list.

**Register Now! [www.BurbankRecycle.org](http://www.BurbankRecycle.org)**  
(go to the Events page)

