



SUSTAINABLE

focus

Thank you for supporting our Conservation Commitment

Sustainable New Year – 3 New Years Resolutions for Sustainability

- **Ditch single-use plastic.** Plastic remains a massive threat to our wildlife and our oceans.
- **Get behind not-so-fast fashion.** The global fashion industry emits almost as much carbon as the entire European continent. Don't buy what you don't need and invest in clothes that will last longer.
- **Be less traffic.** Driving only when you need to means fewer cars on the road and less air pollution from cars left running while stuck in traffic. Consider biking, walking public transportation or carpooling.

WAZE carpool is available through CAPS.

<https://www.gcccd.edu/public-safety/campus-services.html>

What is the Energy Conservation Program at GCCCD?

- In April 2015, GCCCD partnered with Cenergistic in order to reduce energy consumption and costs associated with utilities.
- Cenergistic uses a behavior-based approach to energy conservation, encouraging energy system management, adjusting “controllable” factors such as scheduling, and a focus on eliminating energy consumption during unoccupied times.
- Since April 2015, GCCCD has avoided consuming an average of 20% of the energy that would have been consumed without an energy program, also reducing emissions equivalent to 21 million miles driven by an average car.
- Looking ahead, the Sustainability Committee will consider additional approaches to sustainability such as sustainable dining, transportation, recycling, and more.

Rethinking Balloons

- Balloons can travel thousands of miles and end up polluting an aquatic or terrestrial ecosystem, causing great environmental harm.
- A 2016 report stated that at the current rate of plastic pollution, there will be more plastic and rubber in the ocean than fish by 2050.
- Every day, balloons and balloon ribbons are discovered littering beaches, rivers, lakes, oceans, as well as forests and farmland. As a direct result, wildlife, livestock, and pets are injured or killed because of balloon debris.
- Consider these alternatives:
 - Fly a kite, wave flags or banners, blow bubbles, light candles.



News: Australia's Devastating Fires: The Environmental Impact

- Since September, 17.9 million acres have been burned across Australia's 6 states, an area larger than West Virginia.
- An estimated 1 billion animals have been killed.
- The fires are raining soot on New Zealand's glaciers, potentially increasing glacier melt by 20%-30%.
- The majority of the habitat and food source for the glossy black cockatoo has been destroyed. There were only 400 of these birds in 2019.
- The blazes have made breathing the air in Sydney as bad as smoking 19 cigarettes.

If you would like to help, the Australian Red Cross is collecting donations.

<https://www.redcross.org.au/campaigns/disaster-relief-and-recovery-donate>

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