

Whether you are going back to school or back to work, fall is a great time of year to embrace new habits. Zero Waste Marin and our partners want to pass along a few tips to help Marin County reduce waste this season.

Check before you shop

Businesses can save time, money, and increase security by going paperless. For students, evaluate what you do and don't need before you shop. Just because it's a new school year, doesn't mean you have to replace all of last year's supplies. Binders, folders and notebooks may still have plenty of use left in them. The biggest way to reduce your impact is to use what you already have.

Reuse or recycle electronics

If your family is discarding old computer equipment or electronics, find someone who can use them, or donate items to a charitable organization or thrift store. Enter the word 'Secondhand' into the [Recycling Guide](#) at [ZeroWasteMarin.org](https://zerowastemarin.org) for a list of local drop-off locations.

Look for recycled content in office & school supplies

If you must purchase new pens, pencils, paper or notebooks, shop for supplies made with recycled content, and look for product certifications from the [Sustainable Forestry Initiative](#) and [Forest Stewardship Council](#).

Plan your lunch for waste reduction

Instead of disposable plastic or paper bags, pack your lunch for work or school in a reusable container with a thermos and cloth napkin.

Buy durable items

To reduce waste and save money, select durable, long-lasting backpacks, lunchboxes, reusable coffee cups, rechargeable electronics, and more. If your items start to show signs of wear and tear, consider repairing them before purchasing something new.

Zero Waste Marin works with cities and towns throughout Marin County to educate residents about reducing the amount of waste that goes into our local landfills. Check out the latest updates to our website [ZeroWasteMarin.org](https://zerowastemarin.org) for more tips to reduce waste.