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## *Bay-Friendly Landscaping Menu of Best Practices*



## 1 Landscape Locally



- 1. Select and evaluate the site carefully
- 2. Assess the soil and test drainage
- 3. Survey and protect flora & fauna
- 4. Consider the potential for fire
- 5. Use local, natural plant communities as models

## 2 Landscape for Less to the Landfill



- 1. Select appropriate plants:
  - A. Choose plants to match the microclimate & soil conditions
  - B. Choose plants that can grow to their natural size in the space allotted them
  - C. Replace sheared hedges with plants that can grow to their natural shape & size
  - D. Do not plant invasive species
- 2. Keep plant debris on site:
  - A. Grasscycle
  - B. Produce mulch from plant debris
  - C. Compost plant debris
- 3. Prune selectively and properly
- 4. Water and fertilize judiciously
- 5. Use goats for controlling weeds and creating firebreaks
- 6. Use salvaged items & recycled content materials
- 7. Reduce and recycle waste
- 8. Separate plant debris for clean green discounts

## 3 Nurture the Soil



- 1. Remove and store topsoil before grading
- 2. Protect soil from compaction
- 3. Defend against erosion
- 4. Amend the soil with compost before planting
- 5. Grasscycle
- 6. Mulch regularly
- 7. Aerate compacted soils
- 8. Feed soils naturally
- 9. Avoid synthetic, quick release fertilizers
- 10. Minimize the use of chemical pesticides

## 4 Conserve Water



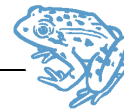
- 1. Create drought resistant soils with compost & mulch
- 2. Grow drought-resistant California native or Mediterranean plants
- 3. Minimize the lawn
- 4. Implement hydrozoning — group plants by water needs
- 5. Design for on-site rainwater collection, recycled water and/or graywater use
- 6. Design and install high efficiency irrigation systems
- 7. Install a dedicated meter to monitor landscape water use
- 8. Manage irrigation according to need
- 9. Maintain the irrigation system so every drop counts
- 10. Request an irrigation audit

## 5 Conserve Energy



- 1. Shade buildings to moderate temperatures
- 2. Reduce the heat island effect
- 3. Shade air conditioners
- 4. Design lighting carefully
- 5. Choose and maintain equipment for fuel conservation
- 6. Specify low embodied energy materials

## 6 Protect Water & Air Quality



- 1. Use Integrated Pest Management:
  - A. Prevent pest problems
  - B. Train your staff to identify and monitor pest & beneficial populations
  - C. Educate your clients
  - D. Control pest problems with physical & mechanical methods
  - E. Control pest problems with biological controls
  - F. Control pest problems with the least toxic pesticide as a last resort
- 2. Eliminate high input decorative lawns
- 3. Minimize site disturbance
- 4. Choose and maintain your materials, equipment & vehicles carefully
- 5. Keep soil & organic matter where it belongs
- 6. Minimize impervious surfaces
- 7. Plant and protect trees
- 8. Maintain and manage the irrigation system carefully
- 9. Design a system to capture and treat water

## 7 Create & Protect Wildlife Habitat



- 1. Diversify
- 2. Choose California natives first
- 3. Provide water & shelter
- 4. Use organic pest management
- 5. Conserve or restore natural areas & wildlife corridors