GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH

YOU CAN TOO

EASY WAYS TO CURB FOOD WASTE

- Make the most out of your food! The ends from vegetables (like onions, carrots, etc.) and other vegetable parts we tend to throw out (like celery leaves) can be used to make soup! Stale bread can be used to make homemade croutons or bread crumbs. Go on smoothie making sprees when your fruit is about to go bad. Many more ways to make the most out of your food can be found at endfoodwastenow.org

- In Alameda County, you can place food waste in your green yard waste cart - including meat and dairy! If you live in Alameda County and need a new or replacement green yard trimmings cart, contact Waste Management of Alameda County by calling (510) 537-5500.

- If your city does not provide a composting service, or you want to take advantage of the rich soil compost can produce for your garden, make your own! Check out stopwaste.org for more information on composting and which compost bin would be right for you!

BEING FOOD WASTE AWARE IS TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

What is delicious to you is also delicious to wildlife – but eating our food doesn’t always end well for them. Humans provide abundant sources of food for animals like raccoons, mountain lions, and bears, largely in the form of our trash. Wildlife that consider our food waste as a reliable meal source are in greater danger of car accidents, poisonings, and lethal control measures when they become too habituated. Many groups across the nation are focused on this problem. California Department of Fish and Wildlife launched a Keep Me Wild education campaign, featuring everything from a mountain lion to a wild pig. People and Carnivores provides carnivore-resistant technologies to those living on the edge of wilderness, and BEAR League created a bear proofing tip sheet. So how can you prevent these conflicts? Keep your trash bins secured, either with bungee cords or by placing them inside a shed or garage. Don’t leave pet food outside, as it attracts prey animals that look like an easy meal for larger predators. If you compost (which you should!) make sure you use an animal-proof structure. Easy changes to keep our local wildlife wild!