

***Our mission*** is to strengthen the reskilling movement locally by regularly teaching sustainable daily-living skills, to promote skill-sharing for a resilient common future, and to enhance the development of self-reliance in Santa Cruz County.

***Our intention*** is to hold two Reskilling Expo events every year, one each in Spring and Fall. Each Expo will be a day-long symposium of workshops offered to the public free-of-charge and designed to impart skills that will increase food security, conserve water and build community resilience.

The next Reskilling Expo will take place on September 26 from 10-4 at Temple Beth El in Aptos. Please join us for this ‘shared knowledge’ forum. We are scheduling presentations on Edible Landscaping, Raising Goats, Solar Cooking, Plant Propagation, Rainwater Catchment and Greywater, Krauting and Pickling, Homemade Garden Tonics and Fertilizers, Compost, Local Water Policy, Fruit Tree Selection and Care, Sewing and Knitting, Low-Tech Solar Water Heating, Tool Sharpening, Microfinance, Hydroponics and Aguaponics, Alternatives to Lawns, Urban Foraging, Wildcrafting and Tincture Making, and Ham Radio.

We’ll have a slate of speakers presenting best practices for the future of Sanitation, Urban Food Production, Small-Scale Home Energy Production and Water Catchment and Reuse.

We are seeking instructors competent to teach Winter and Summer Pruning, Seed Saving and Storage, Grain Storage, Sprouting, Wild Foraging, Lactofermentation (sauerkraut, kimchee, pickles, kombucha, cider), Chemical-Free Cleaning, Flavored Vinegars, Passive Solar Air Heating, Home Canning, Compost Pile-Heated Greenhouses, Soap and Candle Making and Small-Scale Energy Production.

An Expo Tour will be offered the following weekend, October 2 and 3. Participants may choose from a list of eight sites that include a mature Rare Fruit Food Forest, a fledgling Community Garden, an Aguaponics and Hydroponics demo site, a Water Neutral Garden, Graywater Installation sites and a Beehive Woodenware design-and-construct workshop.

Fiscally sponsored by the William James Association, the Santa Cruz Reskilling Expo has been accorded tax-exempt, non-profit status under IRS

Code section 501(c)(3). Donations to offset hall-rental and other expenses are appreciated and are tax-deductible.

***Toward a definition:***

Reskilling is a remembering, reclaiming and revivifying of skills that were known fifty to seventy-five years ago. Reskilling imbues the community with the wealth of shared local knowledge of how to do, make and tend things oneself. It is a regenerative, restorative and ecologically-based methodology. All reskilled individuals would know how to grow some food and harvest some rainwater. Reskilling suggest relocalization; it brings the production of food, water, energy and essential goods closer to home.

***Why Reskill?***

We reskill to rediscover hidden talents, to reclaim lost abilities, to unearth the wisdom needed to create sustenance and bounty. We reskill to restore, cherish and preserve our quality of life and our environment.

***Supporters***

Santa Cruz Bee Guild  
Monterey Bay Master Gardeners  
Central Coast Graywater Alliance  
Ecological Landscape Association/MBWG  
Ecology Action  
Greenspace  
Santa Cruz Neighbors  
William James Association  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
Transition Santa Cruz  
UC Farm and Garden  
SCC Master Composters  
Aptos Community Garden  
Santa Cruz County Red Cross