



Diversions

SUMMER 2002

Your Authority on Waste Diversion, Recycling and Source Reduction in Central Contra Costa County

YOUR REUSABLES CAN HELP AFGHANS IN NEED

Reuse and Cleanup Days – a New Season!



Central Contra Costa residents can take advantage of another season of convenient Reuse & Cleanup Days! Save yourself a trip to the thrift store and place unwanted, reusable items on the curb the day before a scheduled neighborhood cleanup. Pacific Rim Recycling will collect and distribute them to various organizations that reuse, resell or donate to those in need. Detailed information will be mailed to you about two weeks prior to your collection day. See the list below for a general collection schedule.

Orinda/Moraga	Completed in May
Lafayette	June
Alamo, Diablo, Blackhawk	August
Danville	September
Walnut Creek	October

In past years, bicycles and sporting equipment were sent overseas to countries such as Bosnia and Peru. This year CCCSWA is working with the Afghan Center in Fremont to ship materials to Afghan refugee camps. The agency is particularly interested in sending shoes, sporting equipment, bicycles and math books. Here's your opportunity to turn your trash to treasures!

A Closer Look at Collection Rates

Many CCCSWA customers may have noticed a rate adjustment on the March bill. Rate adjustments are a result of an independent review process, and are part of a 10-year service agreement for garbage and recycling collection.

In March 1996, the CCCSWA negotiated lower rates and enhanced services for its member agencies. Since then, there have been two reviews and annual CPI rate increases in some communities; and new programs such as curbside reuse collection, recycling-only cleanups, yard-waste drop-off, electronics collection events and small business recycling have been added. Even with these additional benefits and an overall CCCSWA average rate increase of 3% per year, rates remain well below 1996 levels.

During the review process, a consultant examines service costs and recommends rate adjustments based on several factors such as the consumer, producer and motor fuel price indices. Rates and increases are also dependent on your community (i.e. how hilly, number of narrow private roads, distance from final destination, and the ratio of business, multi-family and residential accounts). A public hearing is held at the January CCCSWA board meeting. Rates effective March 1 are posted on our website at www.waste.diversion.org.

Congratulations, 2002 Mini-Grant Winners!

The CCCSWA awarded funds to the following two projects that will increase waste reduction and recycling in the CCCSWA service area.

Lafayette Elementary will purchase a worm bin, paper shredder, fruit waste bin and composting books and magazines for its new wildlife habitat and composting area.

Castle Rock Field Restoration committee will install recycling bins and recycled-content furnishings for use at the restored soccer and baseball fields.

Reduce Matters

CARRY YOUR CONSERVATION HABITS TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Pack a Zero Waste Picnic

Reuse and recycling may start at home, but you can easily carry your conservation habits into the outdoors for a zero-waste picnic. Here are a few tips on Earth-friendly picnicking:

Create your own reusable picnic set. A wine stain may keep a cloth from your Thanksgiving table, but it could find new life at a casual picnic, on the table or grass.



It's easy to create an inexpensive reusable picnic set. Combine reuse with recycling and composting, and you can enjoy good food in the great outdoors --- with ZERO WASTE!

Pass over paper napkins and towels for the real deal in cloth. Resale stores are great resources for inexpensive plastic reusable mugs, wine glasses, plates, tablecloths, cloth napkins and flatware. Store all your picnic gear in a large basket or cooler and you'll be ready for sun, fun and food at a moment's notice.

Use the cooler to keep your food fresh and healthy before and after your meal. (Avoid disposable Styrofoam coolers.) The night before the picnic, fill old plastic bottles with drinking water and freeze. Stash them in the cooler the next day to keep everything cold, or use special reusable freezer packs designed for this purpose.

Pack sandwiches and other treats in reusable food storage containers. You can also use Ziploc bags that can be washed and reused. Bring drinks in a Thermos or buy recyclable containers such as aluminum cans, glass or plastic bottles. Be sure to recycle cans and bottles at the park, or bring them home to recycle in your burgundy cart.

A zero waste picnic means there is no need for the garbage can. To successfully avoid trips to the trash, remember to pack out what you pack in. Reuse or recycle all containers, reuse plastic bags, and use food containers to store food scraps so you can add them to your worm or compost bin at home.

How to Use Your FREE Recycling-Only Cleanup



As part of regular collection service, Central Contra Costa residents are allowed unlimited recycling-only cleanups from Valley Waste Management (VWM). These cleanups are in addition to the two scheduled and one on-call garbage cleanups offered by Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal.

For recycling-only cleanups, acceptable materials include yard trimmings, cardboard and paper. Recycling is the perfect way to clean up after an extensive landscaping project, recent move or household file update. Follow the guidelines below and call 935-8900 to schedule your pickup.

Total amount of material allowed per pickup: two cubic yards (the equivalent of 14 32-gallon bags).

Cardboard: Break down and put in bundles no larger than 18" x 18".

Paper: Put in brown paper bags or boxes, or bundle using rope or twine.

Branches: Must be no larger than 2" in diameter. Put in bundles no larger than 2' wide and 4' long.

Loose yard clippings such as leaves and grass: Place in plastic bags, buckets, boxes or personal trash cans. No more than 32 gallons per bag, box or container.

Not accepted: garbage, ash, dirt, rocks, glass, metal, fruit or vegetables, cactus, ivy, ice plant, palm, poison oak or poison ivy.

Call VWM 935-8900 for a FREE recycling-only pickup.

It's Cool to Recycle at School!

The City of San Ramon and the CCCSWA sponsored the *It's Cool to Recycle at School* poster contest, open to all elementary students in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

The contest is part of a team effort to enhance school recycling programs and increase awareness. Over the past school year, the CCCSWA and San Ramon provided schools with technical assistance including free recycling containers, performances by juggling educators, and teacher resource kits.



First prize winner Erin Higgins and her teacher Mrs. Dillingham hold the winning poster. The winning posters will be reprinted and used next year for recycling education.

The winners received Broadway Plaza gift certificates and the winning posters will be reprinted and used in schools to promote recycling.

First Prize: Erin Higgins, Vista Grande Elementary

Second Prize: Kyle Ennis, Rancho Romero

Third Prize: Sarah Auguello, Montevideo

Honorable Mentions: Miso Gim, Armstrong Elementary; Lauren Thurston and Danielle Heller, Vista Grande

Take a Lesson...Learn to Compost!



Instructor Patrice Spencer shows students how to compost at the FREE "Home Composting for Busy People" workshop held in Walnut Creek on April 9. The students also learned worm composting, grasscycling and mulching techniques that can reduce household garbage by one-third or more. Workshops are sponsored by the CCCSWA and are held in various locations throughout Central Contra Costa. Review the schedule at right and reserve your spot today! Call 906-1806 for more information.

DATE	TIME	CITY	LOCATION
June 11	7-8:30 pm	Walnut Creek	Gardens at Heather Farm
June 15	9-11:00 am	Orinda	McDonnells Nursery
June 22	1-3:00 pm	San Ramon	Crow Canyon Gardens
July 9	7-8:30 pm	Walnut Creek	Gardens at Heather Farm
July 20	9-11:00 am	Danville	Navlet's Nursery
Aug 13	7-8:30 pm	Walnut Creek	Gardens at Heather Farm
Aug 24	1-3:00 pm	San Ramon	Crow Canyon Gardens
Sep 3	7-8:30 pm	Walnut Creek	Gardens at Heather Farm
Sep 14	9-11:00 am	Orinda	McDonnells Nursery
Sep 21	9-11:00 am	Danville	Navlet's Nursery
Sep 21	1-3:00 pm	Lafayette	Orchard Nursery

Ask the Authority

Dear Authority,

To reduce waste, I followed your recent suggestion and began reusing preprinted response envelopes from junk mail solicitations for my own purposes. I've discovered, however, that crossing out the existing address or placing a new label over it is not enough. Check for barcodes and cover those as well. I learned the hard way after my mail was returned from a business.

Learning in Lafayette

Dear Learning,

We salute your thorough efforts to reduce waste. Unfortunately, as you discovered, U.S. Post Office automation systems read the barcodes on an envelope to identify the recipient address. This barcoded address information takes precedence over handwritten or preprinted addresses. As you suggested, to reuse these envelopes, place a label over the barcoded area in addition to the address area or cross out the barcode with a dark black marker. This should prevent any misdelivery.

Request a FREE CCCSWA "Reused with Pride" rubber stamp to show the world your reuse efforts are motivated by a desire to reduce waste. See below for order information.

Show Pride When Reusing Envelopes

With this FREE rubber stamp, reuse your old envelopes and look good doing it. The "Reused With Pride" stamp tells the world you're not cheap, you're reusing that envelope to reduce waste and help the environment. Send the coupon below to the CCCSWA to request your stamp. One per household. Offer is good while supplies last.



Yes! Please send me one "Reused with Pride" rubber stamp at no charge.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____, CA Zip: _____
 Phone: _____

BY FAX: Fax form to 906-1805.

BY MAIL: Return the coupon to 1280 Civic Dr, #210, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (Remember to send it in a used envelope).

BY EMAIL: Send a message to authority@wastediversion.org and include ALL of the information listed on the coupon.

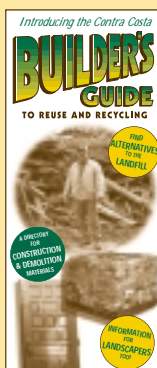
Remodeling?

Work with your contractor to recycle and reuse your remodeling waste.

Be a waste-savvy consumer and ask your contractor's plans to dispose of the debris generated by your upcoming remodeling project. Many reuse and recycling opportunities exist for brick, tile, asphalt, concrete, windows, doors, fixtures, cabinets and more. In fact, the City of Walnut Creek already requires a recycling plan for construction or remodeling projects greater than \$50,000 or 5,000 square feet.

Even if your project is smaller than this, you can help Central Contra Costa reach its waste reduction goal and save money by recycling your construction & demolition (C&D) debris. Recycling is cheaper than disposal and the savings could be passed on to you. C&D debris comprised 20% of the material businesses recycled last year in Central Contra Costa, up from 6% two years ago.

To request a free copy of the *Builder's Guide to Reuse and Recycling*, send an email with your name and address to authority@wastediversion.org or call 906-1801. Be on the lookout for the updated version, due in Fall 2002.



Reduce waste while you're away..

- Stop newspaper delivery. Some papers offer the option to donate your papers to a nonprofit organization.
- Put lights on a timer. Save energy and protect your home.
- Stop your mail. When you get back and collect your mail, take the opportunity to identify unwanted items. Call or write companies and ask to be removed from their lists.

Phone Numbers

CCCSWA	906-1801	FAX 906-1805
email:	authority@wastediversion.org	
website:	www.wastediversion.org	
Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal (formerly BFI)	603-1144	
FAX	685-8153	
website:	www.pleasanthillbayshoredisposal.com	
For questions concerning billing, special cleanups, CRT collection, vacation hold requests, new service or your blue garbage cart.		
VWM Customer Service	935-8900	FAX 935-1617
website:	www.valleywaste.com	
For questions regarding VWM's service of your burgundy recycling cart or green yard clippings cart, to request motor oil disposal containers, for recycling cleanups or for information on the Walnut Creek Recycling Center.		
Contra Costa Recycling Hotline	1-800-750-4096	
Home Composting/Grasscycling Hotline	906-1806	
Household Hazardous Waste	1-800-646-1431	