



Diversions

Winter 2004

A Publication of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority



Recycling at Your Fingertips

The next time you have an unusual item to recycle, let your fingers do the walking to the new SBC Yellow Pages. Contra Costa County and the central county cities have developed and funded a comprehensive recycling guide that will be bound into the 2004/2005 edition of all Contra Costa Central phone books. This will be the most comprehensive resource to date on how to donate, where to buy used goods, how to discard toxic materials, and how to ensure item reuse and recycling. An easy-to-see tab marks the starting page, making your search for waste related information a snap.

Single-Stream Recycling Flows this Spring

This spring, Central Contra Costa residents will say goodbye to split-cart recycling. Containers and paper will be conveniently "co-mingled," eliminating the need for you to sort your recyclables. Many Bay Area cities already use this newer style of recycling, called "single-stream" with much success. Single-stream recycling makes collection more efficient, increases recycling tonnages, and is more convenient for you!



The new label for the burgundy cart clearly states what can be recycled. Valley Waste Management will begin modifying carts and lids in March 2005.

Beginning in March 2005, Valley Waste Management (VWM) will start modifying each existing burgundy cart placed at the curb by removing the cart divider and replacing the existing lid with a new lid and label. We expect the entire CCCSWA service area to be complete by May 1st. Look for more detailed information in January's mail.

Collection trucks will undergo a similar makeover: the dividing panels inside truck compartments will be removed to reflect the new recycling process.

In the next issue of Diversions, we'll show you how single-stream recyclables are sorted and processed after they leave your curb.

RECYCLE BOOKS Hardcover & Softcover At the Walnut Creek Recycling Center

On Lawrence Way (near the 680 north entrance ramp from Main Street).

• The Waste-Cutting Edge •

Happy Shoppers. Happy Planet.

Green Gifts of Many Hues

Are you known for being a great holiday gift giver? If so, you may be at a loss for how to top last year. Or maybe you always have trouble finding unique gifts for the people on your list. By purchasing recycled content products, organic or otherwise sustainable gifts this holiday season, you'll be doing the right thing for the planet, supporting an emerging industry, and giving loved ones they will remember for years to come.



At RecycleStore, you'll find many artistic gifts, such as this beautifully finished cradle made from an old barrel by Grandpa's Cradle Co.

Where to start? Fire up your computer and see what's online. Here's what we found:

- A great place to find a variety of recycled items all in one place is the California Integrated Waste Management Board's RecycleStore. There you can find everything from pillows made from recycled silk ties, to a backgammon board made with recycled cardboard, recycled glass serving bowls and candle holders, and furniture made from reclaimed lumber. Visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/RecycleStore/ for more.
- Eco Choices is an impressively comprehensive site, with over a dozen product categories to browse. Within their main site is Eco Toy Town, where you can find toys such as colorful "modeling dough" and miniature airports, circuses, and farms made from sustainably harvested wood. Find them at www.ecochoices.com.
- For a one-stop eco shop, go to the Eco Mall, a clearinghouse for hundreds of green product sites. A quick search on "Gifts" yielded 94 listings for products ranging from baby blankets to fire logs made from recycled coffee grounds! Where to find the site? www.Ecomall.com, of course!

If you just can't decide on one of these earth-friendly gift ideas, purchase an on-line gift certificate and let your loved one choose.

Holiday Collection Schedule

Because Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Saturdays this year, there will be no changes to collection schedules this holiday season.

Holiday Tree Collection Schedule



Alamo, Blackhawk, Diablo, Danville & Walnut Creek: Jan. 3-7

Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda: Jan. 10-14

Last chance pickups: Jan. 17-21

Set your holiday tree at the curb on your collection day according to the schedule for your city. Please remove all ornaments, stands, tinsel, trimmings and lights. Please, no flocked trees.

Give the Gift of Garden

A backyard composting bin is a great gift for that special gardener in your life. The CCCSWA offers the Smith & Hawken Biostack™ bin at a reduced price of \$45.

Order by December 16 for delivery before the holidays. *Limited quantities while supplies last.*

1. Order online with a credit card

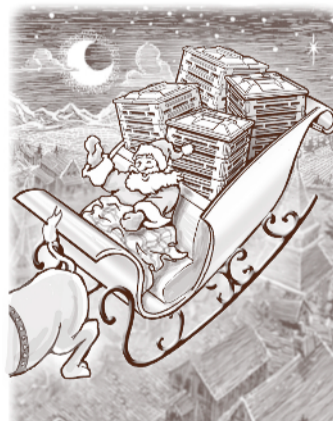
OR

2. Fill out the form below and mail a check for \$45.00 to CCCSWA, attn: Biostack Bins, 1280 N. Civic Dr., Suite 210, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

NAME: _____ DAYTIME PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____

DELIVERY ADDRESS: _____



When You Care Enough to Send the Very Best...Again

We all love to get cards from friends and family, but consider this...2.65 billion Christmas cards are sold each year in the U.S. alone. That's enough to fill a football field 10 stories high! This year, why not try something different?

For the lowest impact, send free "e-cards" from a number of internet sites. These electronic greetings can include images, personalized messages and even music. Here are a few places to find "e-greetings":

- Artsonia, www.artsonia.com
- Photofun.com, www.photofun.com
- E-cards, www.e-cards.com
- Bluemountain.com
- Hallmark.com

If you can't feel festive without sending paper greetings, here are a few other ideas to make your own high-impact cards with a lower impact on the environment:

- Start with reused paper, or recycled paper made with a high percentage of post-consumer waste. Check package labels for recycled-content information. On-line



Recycled Paper Greetings, Inc. offers a wide variety of holiday cards printed on recycled paper. Their cards are available in stores such as Cost Plus, Target, Papyrus, Kinko's, and UPS Stores.

sources for recycled content paper include www.greenlinepaper.com and www.treecycle.com.

- Use children's original artwork, old calendars, or photographs.
 - Cover with paper snowflakes made from old wrapping paper.
 - Weave a picture or pattern through the paper with reused ribbon.
 - Cut the front off of a card you've received and send it as a postcard!
 - Reuse cards to create gift tags.
- If you're not feeling quite that crafty, here are some other ideas:
- Purchase off-the-rack cards made of 100% recycled paper. Look for the recycled content symbol on cards.
 - Order cards from online sources such as www.greenfieldpaper.com or www.doodlegreetings.com.
 - Consider sending postcards to eliminate envelope waste.

However you choose to send them, your "green" greetings will be welcomed by your loved ones AND the environment.

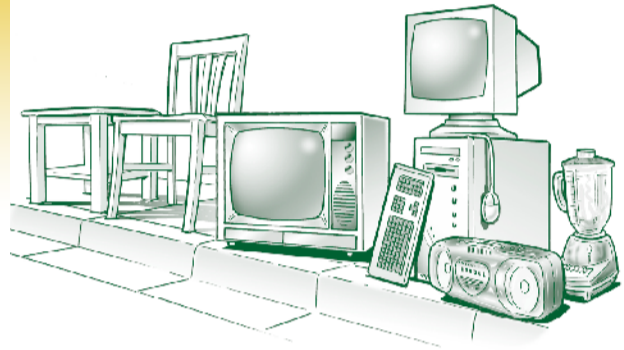
Electronics Recycling Legislative Update: SB 20

Our Little Bill is Growing Up

In September 2003, then Governor Gray Davis signed the Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003, Senate Bill 20 (SB 20) into law. This law mandates that consumers pay an advanced recycling fee on all electronics containing cathode ray tubes or "CRTs," due to their hazardous lead and mercury content. These fees will help pay for their end-of-life recycling. However, there was very little direction in the original bill about *how* the fees would be collected and then redistributed to CRT collectors and recyclers. Governor Schwarzenegger recently signed SB 50, a new bill that answers some of these questions.

SB 50 postpones the initial date recycling fees will be assessed to January 1, 2005. The fees will vary based on the size of the item. This new law also spells out where these fees will go and gives more guidance to manufacturers about product labeling, processing and materials export.

If you would like more information about Senate Bills 20 or 50, contact the California Department of Toxic Substances Control or go to www.dtsc.ca.gov.



Electronics Curbside Collection a Success

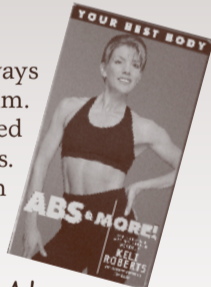
Thanks to all Central Contra Costa residents who participated in the first electronics curbside collection last fall. Thanks to your efforts, we collected 624 tons of materials for reuse and recycling. This included approximately 70 tons monitors and TVs, which have cathode ray tubes containing hazardous materials such as lead, and 18 tons of computer components.

Ask the Authority

Dear Authority,

My New Year's resolution is always to re-energize my exercise program. So, over the years I've collected quite a number of exercise videos. I'm tired of them, but they're still in fine condition. It seems a shame to throw them away. What can I do?

Signed, Aerobicizing in Alamo



Dear Aerobicizing,

You're an inspiration to us all! To trim down your exercise video collection (not to mention your waste line) you can trade, give away or sell your unwanted videos. Here are some suggestions:

- Videofitness.com maintains an online trading forum for registered members. You can't sell videos

here, but you can exchange a tape you're bored with for another title from a participating member. Members post their wish lists and can review and respond to other members' lists. It's a great resource for those who like to keep their collection current and inspiring.

- You can also post your own ad on craigslist (www.craigslist.org) or e-bay (www.ebay.com), or you can arrange your own trades with friends, workout buddies or by posting a notice at the gym.
- Your videos would make good stocking stuffers or grab bag gifts, especially if you know the recipient is interested in fitness.
- Ask your local library if they might like to have them.
- Rasputin Music in Pleasant Hill (800-350-8700) may buy your videos, although they informed us that the VHS format is losing its resale value due to the DVD revolution.



With a little effort your tapes will help another person kick, step and stretch toward health!

Signed, The Authority

UnShop Before You Drop!

Shopping 'til you drop depletes your energy, bank account *and* precious resources. Because of this, consumer organization, Co-Op America, (www.coopamerica.com) recommends you ask yourself the following questions before you make a purchase:



Co-Op America's "UnShopping List"

1. Do I really need and want this? Can I get by without it?
2. Is it made from renewable or nonrenewable resources?*
3. Is it made of recycled materials and is it recyclable?
4. How long will it last, and how will I dispose of it?
5. Can it be maintained and repaired?
6. Could I borrow, rent or buy it secondhand?
7. Is it overpackaged?
8. Is it worth the time I worked to pay for it?
9. Is it worth its cost to the environment?

*A renewable resource is one that has the ability to regenerate at regular intervals. An example is wood. Metals are considered non-renewable.—
University of Wisconsin, College of Natural Resources

Contact information

CCCSWA 906-1801
 fax: 906-1805 web: www.wastediversion.org
 email: authority@wastediversion.org

PLEASANT HILL BAYSHORE DISPOSAL 603-1144
 fax: 685-8153
 web: www.pleasanthillbayshoredisposal.com
 For questions concerning billing, special cleanups, vacation hold requests, computer & TV collection, new service or your blue garbage cart.

VALLEY WASTE MANAGEMENT 935-8900
 fax: 935-1617 web: www.valleywaste.com
 For questions concerning the service of your burgundy recycling or green yard clippings carts, to request motor oil disposal containers, for recycling cleanups or information on the Walnut Creek Recycling Center.

CONTRA COSTA RECYCLING HOTLINE .. 1-800-750-4096
 HOME COMPOSTING/GRASSCYCLING 906-1806
 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE .. 1-800-646-1431