



Diversions

Winter 2005

A Publication of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

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Single-Stream Recycling Update

Please, No Plastic Bags



Although paper and containers can mix and mingle in your single-stream recycling cart, plastic bags are NOT invited! Please bring plastic bags to a grocery store near you that offers bag recycling. Or better yet, bring your own reusable bags to the store. To find a recycling location, visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org or call 1-888-753-7485.

Note: By now, Valley Waste Management (VWM) should have modified all CCCSWA-area recycling carts for commingled collection. If somehow you were missed, please call VWM at 925-935-8900.

More Chances to Give Away Old Stuff!

Reuse Program Expands to Winter Months

The CCCSWA's Reuse and Cleanup Days program used to be held the day before each community's May through October special cleanup day. This November, rather than parking the trucks until May to wait out the rainy season, the CCCSWA is continuing the program throughout the winter. With this new year-round program, you will now have two opportunities to have reusable items picked up at the curb the day before your cleanup, one in the summer and one in the winter.



Here are a few simple tips for the new winter program:

- Bag your material to protect it from rainy weather and only put out those items that can be well protected from rain.
- Check your mail for the yellow brochure containing your scheduled winter collection day. It will contain bright green labels for Reuse & Cleanup Days. Place the labels on your bags to clearly identify which contain reusable items.
- Save large items, such as furniture, for the summer cleanup.

Winter Reuse & Cleanup Days

Orinda/Moraga	November
Lafayette	December
Unincorporated County	February
Danville	March
Walnut Creek	April

If you need more information about the Reuse and Cleanup Days program, visit www.wastediversion.org or call 925-906-1807.

The Waste-Cutting Edge

Closing the Loop with Smart Design

Aiming for "Xero" Waste

Zero waste combines community practices such as reuse, repair, recycling, toxics management and composting with industrial practices such as eliminating toxics and redesigning packaging and products.

Xerox, a global manufacturer of copiers and printers, has embraced this big picture approach to reducing waste. The company has adopted a zero waste policy and revised its entire production process into a "closed loop" recycling system.

The policy requires all Xerox printers and copiers to be energy efficient, last as long as possible and be easily taken apart for reuse and recycling. The company also uses only components made from recyclable plastics and metals.

At the end of their useful life, products return to Xerox's remanufacturing facilities, where specialized workers disassemble, clean and screen the equipment. Components that pass the quality test go directly back into the production of new printers and copiers. Non-reusable parts are recycled into raw materials which, in turn, are used to make new products.

One of Xerox's printers, the Document Centre 265, has 80 percent of its parts designed to re-enter the production process. An additional 17 percent can be recycled. The company is working to put the remaining 3 percent back into the "closed loop" system as well.

Xerox initially adopted this system to cut down on expenses. The results have been outstanding. In addition to conserving vast amounts of resources, the company is saving millions of dollars in production and avoided waste disposal costs, showing that Zero Waste can be a win-win solution for both the economy and the environment.



Born again: A worker at one of Xerox's remanufacturing centers prepares used printer parts to become new products.

Holiday Collection Schedule

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

Holiday Tree Recycling 2006

Lafayette, Moraga & Orinda	Jan 2-6
Alamo, Blackhawk, Diablo, Danville & Walnut Creek	Jan 9-13
Last-chance pickups	Jan 16-20

Curbing Need Locally and Around the Globe

When you put your reusables out on the curb, you can feel good about the fact that they're going to good homes where people really need them. The Reuse & Cleanup Days program serves many Contra Costa non-profit programs by providing them with donated materials.

One of those non-profit agencies is the Interfaith Coalition, which provides household "starter kits" to those in transition from living in a shelter to obtaining their own residence.

Twice a month, the Coalition picks up donated items from the Pacific Rim Recycling warehouse in Benicia and distributes selected reusables—such as kitchen and bedding essentials—to transitioning families.

The East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse in Oakland also distributes to Shelter Incorporated in Concord, Cycles for Change in Richmond, and One Family in Danville, everything from clothing to bikes.

Not all items wind up in local hands and for good reason. A portion of the goods are sent to the St. Vincent De Paul Society in Lane County, Oregon, which distributes them according to need. Sometimes they go overseas to orphanages and schools in places like Bosnia, Afghanistan and Nicaragua. Beginning this past September, some of your donated linens, towels and blankets were sent to help Hurricane Katrina survivors.

Low-Waste, Low-Stress Party Planning

Are you planning a festive get-together for relatives and friends this holiday season? With a little preparation it's easy to have a party without throwing away a lot of trash. Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

Invitations:

Consider using a free online invitation service such as www.evite.com or www.regards.com. These services will save not only time and money but paper, too! You can choose a template that matches your party theme, or personalize your invitation by inserting a design or photo of your own.

Tableware:

Avoid disposable cups, plates, utensils, tablecloths and napkins. Add style to your party by renting dishes, cloth tablecloths and napkins instead. Two Walnut Creek businesses, C&M and Stuart Rental both offer delivery and pick up. No need to wash the dishes or linen – they take care of it.

- C&M: www.cmparty.com, 925-934-3181
- Stuart Rental: www.stuartrental.com, 925-933-5454



A treat for your guests and the environment: real china and glasses instead of disposables.

Party Favors:

Reduce, reuse, re-gift! Instead of buying party favors, consider a "white elephant" gift exchange. This is how it works: Ask guests to bring unwanted gifts, nicely wrapped (in reused gift wrap, ideally). Place the gifts on a table. Determine the order in which guests will take turns. On his or her turn, a guest can choose a gift from the spread or from another guest who has already taken one. You never know what you're going to wind up with until the end. It's lots of fun, and remember: one person's white elephant may be another's Maltese falcon!

Food Leftovers:

Plan ahead by having a few reusable containers ready so your guests can take home some of the goodies. Or, if you have a larger amount of prepared food left over, donate it to the Contra Costa Food Bank, 925-676-7543. If your leftovers meet food safety guidelines, they will bring you containers and pick them up. Alternatively take food to the Contra Costa County Homeless Program shelter in Concord. Call 925-646-5094 first to arrange for drop-off.

A Gift to Nature, Your Loved Ones or Yourself!

Compost and Get a Rate Discount



Composting is a great way to give your garden a holiday treat. By making a natural fertilizer out of materials that would otherwise be landfilled, you could say you're helping the Earth twice! And did you know that composting can also put some coins into your piggy bank?

If you're already a backyard composter and actively maintain a pile or bin, you may qualify for a monthly discount of \$1.50 off your garbage bill. That's enough to pay for a latte every other month, or movie tickets for two once a year!

All you need to do is become a certified composter through the CCCSWA. Find the quick and easy application on our website (www.wastediversion.org) or call 925-906-1806.

Not Composting? Start by Ordering a Bin.

A backyard compost bin also makes a great gift for the holidays. The Biostack bin, made by upscale garden supply retailer Smith & Hawken, costs only \$45 and will be delivered free of charge within CCCSWA jurisdictions. (Shipping alone will cost you \$40 if you buy directly from Smith & Hawken.) Order by December 15 to make sure your bin arrives in time for the holidays!

First Year of E-waste Collection Yields 146+ Tons

Central Contra Costans Get the Lead Out

This past August marked the one-year anniversary of the new curbside electronics collection service introduced as part of the annual Reuse and Cleanup Days Program. The numbers show overwhelming response to the added service!

Over the past year, residents set out over 146 tons of computer monitors, CPUs, keyboards and printers. Other items included TVs, VCRs, cell phones, radios and small appliances.



It's important that electronics don't end up in the landfill because mercury, lead, cadmium and other heavy metals contained in these products can contaminate drinking water and cause disease. A single cathode ray tube, or CRT, commonly found in computer monitors and television sets, contains 5 to 8 pounds of lead.

In addition to the Reuse and Cleanup Days, CCCSWA residents can drop off computer equipment and TVs, at no cost, at Pacific Rim Recycling's Benicia facility. Call 1-800-999-6067 for details.

Ask the Authority

Dear Authority,

On the top of my burgundy recycling container, it indicates that in addition to items like newspapers, milk and juice cartons, aluminum cans etc., I can also include plastic items with a recycling number of 1-5 and 7. I gather then that plastic items with a recycling number of 6 cannot be recycled in my curbside program.

I noticed that the containers I get at Jamba Juice have a #6. Is there another way for me to recycle these containers or is there a way for us to encourage Jamba Juice to use containers that have a recycling number of 1-5, or 7?

Thank you,
Mike Debiase in Walnut Creek

Dear Mike,

Yes, it's true. Number 6 plastics are not recyclable in the CCCSWA service area, nor in most areas. Number 6 items are typically Styrofoam™ containers, such as the Jamba Juice containers you describe. Although Styrofoam™ is technically "recyclable," its light weight makes Styrofoam more costly to ship than the material is actually worth, so there is little economic incentive to recycle it.



It would be a great idea to write a letter to your local Jamba Juice, or perhaps their corporate headquarters, encouraging them to use another type of plastic container that could be recycled. An even better option would be for you to avoid disposable containers altogether and bring your own reusable mug to the store. Jamba Juice actually sells reusable containers in their stores. They'll even give you a 10¢ discount if you bring your own mug.

The Authority

Contact information

CCCSWA.....925-906-1801

fax: 925-906-1805 web: www.wastediversion.org

email: authority@wastediversion.org

PLEASANT HILL BAYSHORE DISPOSAL . . 925-603-1144

fax: 925-685-8153

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 925-935-8900

fax: 925-935-1617 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. . 925-906-1806

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE. . . 1-800-646-1431

REUSE & CLEANUP DAYS 1-707-746-6067