



Diversions

Winter 2007

A Publication of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

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**CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA
SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY**

CCCSWA Seeks New Director

The CCCSWA Personnel Committee appointed Mr. Paul Morsen as Interim Executive Director beginning July 16th. Paul Morsen helped in the creation of the Authority over a decade ago. He came out of six years of retirement (having previously been an executive at the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District) to help the Authority out while it searches for someone to fill the post on a more permanent basis. The CCCSWA hopes to have its new director on the job in January 2008.

Order Yours Today!

Waste-free Lunch Kits Get Straight A's

The average student generates 67 pounds of trash per year, mostly during their lunch breaks—from single-serve snack packaging and juice boxes to disposable napkins, plastic baggies and cutlery. These "throw-away lunches" are convenient but costly to parents' bank accounts and to the environment.



Reusable lunch kits are a great way to cut down on juice and snack packaging, while buying in bulk can save parents money too.

The CCCSWA is offering an alternative: a reusable lunch kit that takes packaging waste out of the equation but keeps school lunch preparation quick and easy. In addition it teaches kids about the 3Rs hands-on.

The modular lunch kit, fashioned after Asian bento boxes, includes several colorful containers, a refillable drink bottle, a stainless-steel fork and spoon, a cloth napkin, an insulated carrying case and a booklet with quick and healthy lunch ideas. All items have consistently tested lead- and phthalate-free.

Central Contra Costa County residents can buy reusable lunch kits at a discounted price of only \$10 each. To order, call the Authority at (925) 906-1801 or visit www.wastediversion.org.

The Waste-Cutting Edge

He Even Line Dries Cloth Diapers!

Super-Green Dad

Food scraps, old lumber, diapers—these are just a few of the areas in which Peter Cole, this issue's Green Lifestyle Award winner, has figured out how to reduce, reuse and recycle at his Orinda home. It all started when Susan Cole, who nominated her husband for the award, casually mentioned her interest in composting. "The following weekend he built me a composting area in the corner of our back yard."



Peter Cole and his wife, Susan, line dry reusable cloth diapers instead of buying disposables for their two young children.

Not long after, Peter built a retractable line dryer of his own design in the garage so the four-member family could line dry clothes year-round. Last year Peter asked the contractor remodeling their home to save the old doors and windows, which he then gave away to people who found him online.

Though a hybrid car is still in the future, Peter Cole is happy with his new deck, made completely of recycled plastic bottles, and the other green strides his family has made. "It only makes sense," he said, glancing at the drying diapers. "A newborn uses, what, 6 diapers a day? Why put that in a landfill?"



Holiday Collection Schedule

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
DEC 24	DEC 25	DEC 26	DEC 27	DEC 28	DEC 29
REGULAR SERVICE	NO PICKUP	Pickup for Tues. customers	Pickup for Wed. customers	Pickup for Thurs. customers	Pickup for Fri. customers
DEC 31	JAN 1	JAN 2	JAN 3	JAN 4	JAN 5
REGULAR SERVICE	NO PICKUP	Pickup for Tues. customers	Pickup for Wed. customers	Pickup for Thurs. customers	Pickup for Fri. customers

Normal collection will resume the week of January 7.

Holiday Tree Recycling 2007

Remove decorations and stands. Then place clean, unflocked trees at the curb on your collection day, according to the schedule below.



**Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda:
Week of Jan. 7–11, 2008**

**Alamo, Blackhawk, Diablo, Danville, Walnut Creek:
Week of Jan. 14–18, 2008**

Last-chance pickups: Week of Jan. 21–25, 2008

A Gift for Your Favorite Gardener

A Biostack™ backyard compost bin will bring joy and provide nutrient-rich soil amendment for many years. Order one at a reduced price of only \$49 plus tax by December 14 to ensure delivery before the holidays.

Purchase online with a credit card at www.wastediversion.org, or fill out the form at right and mail a check for \$53.04 to: Biostack Bins, CCCSWA, 1111 Civic Drive, Suite 275, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.



NAME: _____
 DAYTIME PHONE: (____) ____ - ____ - ____
 ADDRESS: _____
 DELIVERY ADDRESS: _____

Green Re-Models, Part III

Welcome back to our series on eco-minded kitchen remodeling. We're tackling the topic of cabinets, which is often the most expensive part of a remodel. Besides the cost, both your old and new cabinets can have an impact on the environment.

Most kitchen cabinets on the market nowadays are made from particleboard or "pressed wood," which can contain high levels of formaldehyde. According to the U.S. EPA, the formaldehyde in the air can cause health problems ranging from asthma attacks to headaches and possibly cancer. Solid wood cabinets may contain less formaldehyde, but they are often made from non-sustainably harvested timber.

Here are three more eco-friendly options:

Re-Face Your Existing Cabinets

Maybe your cabinets are in fine shape structurally, but you want a new look. In this case, re-facing



Re-facing your existing cabinets is a great way to get a new look while using fewer resources, generating less waste and lowering costs.

Stay Tuned: The Green Home Tour is coming up June 1, 2008! For more information go to www.builditgreen.com.

is a great option. According to Damion Rutherford, President of Kitchen-Cabinets-Design.com, a homeowner can save between 30 and 60% by re-facing. Check out www.kitchenworks.com/refacing.html for more information.

Purchase Salvaged Cabinets

Reuse is always better than buying new. Ohmega Salvage (510-204-0767) and Urban Ore (510-841-SAVE)—both in Berkeley—offer an ever-changing selection of salvaged cabinets.

Eco Materials

If your heart is set on brand new construction, Neil Kelly Cabinets out of Portland, Oregon offers fashionable cabinets that are also safe and earth-friendly. Find out more at www.neilkellycabinets.com or, for other great options, visit www.builditgreen.org.

So now you've got "green" floors, countertops and cabinets, right? What could possibly be next? Here's a clue: the ceiling's the limit!

Orinda's New Green City Hall!

If they had settled for a conventional office building, the Orinda City Council members might have escaped their cramped temporary trailer offices years sooner.

But the council, including CCCSWA board members Victoria Smith and Amy Worth, was determined to build a "green" city hall. Already the state-of-the-art building has earned a gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating from the U.S. Green Building Council.



Amy Worth and Victoria Smith stand under the new Orinda City Hall's outdoor atrium, which serves as the building's lobby.

After four years of planning and building, about 60 employees moved into the 14,000-square-foot structure in June of '07. The distinctive-looking two-story building boasts an abundance of natural light, made possible by various reflective surfaces. It also relies on cool cross-breezes for ventilation. Several times a day, electronic displays similar to walk/don't walk signs cue employees when to open or close their windows. The \$10 million design is so extraordinary that employees attended classes on how the building functions, explained mayor pro tem Smith.

"As a council member, I think it's a good investment for the city. In a building that's expected to still be in use 30 or 40 years from now, we expect energy savings to be phenomenal."



What is Product Stewardship?

You Make It, You Take It

Most of the products we buy these days have a limited lifespan. A computer may serve us longer than a disposable camera or a light bulb, but sooner or later, they all turn into unwanted discards. Getting rid of them can be costly, especially if the items contain harmful substances. Products that contain heavy metals, like electronics and household batteries, were recently banned from California landfills. This new law has left communities with the responsibility of setting up special collection and recycling programs.

The concept of Product Stewardship promises a better way. The idea is that manufacturers should be responsible for handling the products they make at the end of their useful lives, usually through a "take-back" program. California law currently only requires the retailers of cell phones and rechargeable batteries to provide such a program.

For more information visit the California Product Stewardship Council's website at www.caproductstewardship.org.

Ask the Authority

Dear Authority,
Which choice is truly greener: a real or an artificial Christmas tree?

Mindful in Moraga

Dear Mindful,
Artificial evergreens spare live trees and are easily available. They're also convenient to store and reuse, less messy, and less likely to trigger allergies. But they're also made of plastic (a non-renewable resource) and can emit toxic fumes. Of course, unlike real trees, they also don't have that wonderful pine scent.

Other options to consider:

- Get a live potted tree and plant it in your garden after the holidays.
- Cut your own tree at a place like Skyline Tree Farm in Palo Alto (skylinetreefarm@earthlink.net), where the trees are farmed sustainably.
- Purchase pine boughs from your local tree lot and place them artistically on your mantle instead of having a tree. (They may even give them to you free!)

Good luck!

Sincerely, The Authority

Do you have a question for us? Please send it to authority@wastediversion.org.



Contact information

CCCSWA 925-906-1801
fax: 925-906-1805 web: www.wastediversion.org
email: authority@wastediversion.org

GARBAGE:
ALLIED WASTE SERVICES 925-603-1144
fax: 925-685-8153 web: www.awsccc.com
For questions concerning billing, special cleanups, vacation hold requests, computer & TV collection, new service or your blue garbage cart.

RECYCLING:
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 recycling 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 1-800-999-6067



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