



# Diversions

—your cutting edge resource for cutting waste.



AUTHORITY OP-ED

## Excellent Service with Home Delivery!

Remember the days when milk was delivered to your front porch, saving you countless trips to the store? While the milkman has become a rare sight, the CCCSWA's service providers are still a fixture in the community. In fact, we continually expand and improve the programs we bring directly to your home.

The weekly pick-up of your burgundy, green and blue carts is just one of our convenient curbside services. During the award-winning, bi-annual Reuse & Cleanup Days, the CCCSWA invites you to set out reusable items, unwanted household electronics and even batteries. Together with our partners, we work to ensure the "highest use" of all items collected.

In this issue of Diversions, we highlight the many programs we deliver to your doorstep, plus some other waste-cutting tips that don't require you to leave the house.

Best Wishes for the New Year,



Paul Morsen, *Executive Director*

LOW-WASTE LIFESTYLE A FAMILY VALUE

## The Curiels' Motto: Use Less, Recycle the Rest

When Kim and Fred Curiel met in 1982, they knew they wanted to build a green life together. "It was kind of strange back then to design a green dream home," remembers Kim. "But Fred's parents, who lived through the Great Depression, never wasted anything, so that was our background."

The couple raised their four daughters with the same values, and today the Lafayette family of six practices a green lifestyle that generates less than 10 gallons of garbage a week.



Home made preserves are a staple at the Curiels' and just one of the many ways the family reduces waste. From left to right: Katie, Kim, Julie and Fred Curiel.

It's easier to reduce waste than most people think, say the Curiels, who were runners-up for the 2009 Sustainable Contra Costa Award. For instance, to avoid food packaging, they shop at the farmer's market and can their own fruits and veggies. Lunches go into reusable containers, and all yard waste is composted. They also take their own shopping bags wherever they go.

What remains after all these waste-preventing activities goes in the curbside recycle bin. "Everyone in the house is aware of what goes into the trash can and what doesn't. We've all been known to pull things out if someone makes a mistake and puts something recyclable in there," says Kim.

## Recycling Is Easy with Curbside Service

RECYCLABLES	COMPOSTABLES	TRASH

## Valley Waste Management Moves Call Center

Last December our recycling company, Valley Waste Management (VWM), started routing phone calls from residents in the Authority's jurisdiction to a regional call center. While VWM's local phone number 925-935-8900 remains the same, your call is now answered by a customer service representative in Washington State. VWM states that this change can help them handle a larger volume of calls during peak hours, without compromising the quality of assistance provided.

Please let us know if your expectations are met. We welcome your feedback at 925-906-1801 or [authority@wastediversion.org](mailto:authority@wastediversion.org).

Note that VMW's local customer service office at 2658 N. Main Street in Walnut Creek remains staffed and open for in-person questions, payments and customer issues.

## Rx Drop-Off Update

New locations available!  
Visit [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org) for a list.



## New Collection Rates Effective March 1st

Each year, CCCSWA member agencies assess if a rate adjustment is necessary due to higher fuel and/or local service costs. Beginning March 1st, CCCSWA service area residents will see a modest increase on their bills for solid waste collection services. You can lower your bill by reducing your garbage cart size or by becoming a CCCSWA-certified home composter.

Detailed rate information will be available at [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org) starting March 1st.

REUSE & CLEANUP DAYS A WIN-WIN FOR ALL

# Donate Reusables the Easy Way!

Is your closet cramped with clothes and other useable items you no longer need? Do you have stacks of books to give away? The bi-annual Reuse & Cleanup Days Program is the perfect opportunity to donate your unwanted household items—from the convenience of your own home.



Giving reusable items a second life couldn't be more convenient! Thanks to Claire Curtis of Moraga for the photo of her model set-out for the Reuse & Cleanup Days.

Available exclusively to CCCSWA service area residents, this award-winning program keeps over 1,000 tons of reusables out of the landfill each year. Not only that, but it distributes them to where they are most needed, and creates green jobs in the process!

Please help make the program an even bigger success by following these instructions:

- Set out items for reuse (day 1) and bulky trash cleanup (day 2) in separate piles.
- All items must be on the curb. Pick-up crews cannot enter your property.
- Bag or box smaller items to make pick-up easier. Wrap breakables.
- Mark reuse items with the green stickers mailed to you.
- Reuse & Cleanup Days happen rain or shine! If weather's a concern, cover your items with a tarp. (Don't worry—we won't take your tarp!)
- Items MUST be set out by 6:00 a.m.
- If possible, set out in the early morning, rather than the night before, to discourage scavenging. Report scavengers to the police.

Detailed setout guidelines, as well as your green stickers, will be mailed to you about two weeks before your Reuse & Cleanup Days.



CCCSWA's innovative Reuse & Cleanup Days program won the 2009 Sustainable Contra Costa Award (government category) for "outstanding commitment to sustainable practices." As far as we know this program is the only one of its kind in the country, if not the world!

## QUESTIONS?

**REUSE DAY:** Pacific Rim Recycling, 800-999-6067.

**CLEANUP DAY:** Allied Waste, 925-603-1144.

**TIP:** Got reusable items but don't want to wait for the next Reuse & Cleanup Days? Try posting a free online ad, for example at [www.Craigslist.org](http://www.Craigslist.org) or [www.Freecycle.org](http://www.Freecycle.org), offering your items in return for pick-up from your house!

## SPRING REUSE & CLEANUP DAY SCHEDULE

Community	Date
Unincorp. County	February
Danville	March
Walnut Creek	April
Moraga & Orinda	May
Lafayette	June

NO BACKYARD? NO WORRIES!

# NatureMill Indoor Composter

Though good for the environment, backyard composting isn't possible for everyone. That's one reason why five years ago a San Francisco entrepreneur invented the NatureMill, an odorless indoor composter small enough to fit in the corner of a kitchen or garage. Just pop open the top, drop food scraps in, and the machine automatically turns and heats the material, producing rich compost for the garden or your houseplants in just a few weeks!

CCCSWA staff has put the NatureMill indoor composter to the test in the office lunchroom, and it has received good marks all around.

Find out more about the indoor composter at [www.naturemill.com](http://www.naturemill.com). Right now residents can save when they buy either the standard or deluxe model. Call CCCSWA at 925-906-1801 x306 for a 30% off coupon, valid through June 2010.



## Ask the AUTHORITY

Dear Authority,



I'm a busy mom of three, and it seems everything we use needs batteries. What's the easiest way to recycle them without adding another errand to my already full schedule?

— *Burned Out on Batteries*

Dear Burned Out,

The easiest way to recycle your batteries is on your "Reuse & Cleanup Days." Simply put your used batteries in a re-sealable, clear plastic bag and place them in a visible spot on top of your reusable items. You can recycle almost any kind of battery you find in your home: AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, hearing aid and laptop batteries, even rechargeables. (Note that rechargeable batteries need to be taped on both ends to prevent dangerous build-up of heat during transportation.)

It's just that easy to keep toxic chemicals and heavy metals from batteries out of our landfills and ground water. If you'd rather not wait for the next Reuse & Cleanup Day, visit [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org) for a list of drop-off locations.

Signed,

*The Authority*

Do you have a question for us? Please send it to [authority@wastediversion.org](mailto:authority@wastediversion.org).

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CCCSWA.....925-906-1801  
 fax: 925-906-1805.....web: [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org)  
 email: [authority@wastediversion.org](mailto:authority@wastediversion.org)

**GARBAGE:**  
**ALLIED WASTE SERVICES.....925-603-1144**  
 fax: 925-685-8153.....web: [www.awsgccc.com](http://www.awsgccc.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](http://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...925-906-1801x306**  
**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE.....1-800-646-1431**  
**REUSE AND CLEANUP DAYS:**

**Reuse (Day) questions:**  
**Pacific Rim Recycling ..... 1-800-999-6067**  
**Cleanup (Day) questions:**  
**Allied Waste Services ..... 925-603-1144**



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