



Diversions

Fall 2002

A Publication of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

Turning Over a New Leaf

We hope you like the new look of *Diversions*. Starting with this issue, the quarterly insert is printed on New Leaf "Reincarnation," a 100% recycled, 50% post-consumer paper stock -- the highest post-consumer content available for this paper type. By making the switch, *Diversions* saves the following resources each year*:

NEW LEAF PAPER resource conservation statement		
trees	electricity	water
20 fully grown	2,621 kilowatt hours	2,009 gallons
solid waste	greenhouse gases	
5 cubic yards	3,320 pounds	

* Calculated based on research done by the Environmental Defense and other members of the Paper Task Force.
© New Leaf Paper www.newleafpaper.com

2000 Diversion Rates Approved

50% and Counting ...

Congratulations to all Central Contra Costa residents! The official word is in: all of the cities in the CCCSWA's jurisdiction are meeting the conditions set forth by Assembly Bill 939, the state-mandated goal of 50% waste reduction by the year 2000 and beyond. This summer, the California Integrated Waste Management Board approved Danville's 51% diversion rate, while granting Lafayette, Walnut Creek and Moraga "good faith effort" approval for their great programs. Orinda received its requested extension until December 2003. Good faith effort approvals and extensions are only given to municipalities that are making significant progress towards 50% and implementing waste reduction programs.

Although we've passed the 2000 hurdle, we still have to keep reducing, reusing and recycling to maintain or achieve full compliance with state laws.

The CCCSWA continues to coordinate convenient waste reduction, reuse and recycling opportunities for local citizens. The illustration below shows how your city accomplishes its diversion rate, broken down by program.

• The Other 50% •

A Look at the Landfill

We all throw "away" stuff we don't want. But actually, "away" is a very real place -- the landfill. In this first part of a series of articles, we'll show you exactly what happens to the "other 50%" -- the stuff you place in your blue cart.



A semi-trailer truck offloads waste into the active fill area of Keller Canyon Landfill. 244 acres of the 2500-acre site will eventually be filled with refuse.

Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal (PHBD) collects your trash and hauls it to the transfer station, where it is combined with other refuse on a large covered floor. It is then loaded into large semi-trailer trucks and transported 14 miles to the Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburg. Open since 1992, Keller Canyon has an expected life span of 55 years at the current rate of disposal.

Keller Canyon is a 2500-acre site with 244 acres designated as "landfill footprint" or active fill area. The active fill area consists of alternate layers of compacted waste and daily cover. Daily cover, usually made of green waste or soil, guards against animals, odors, and litter.

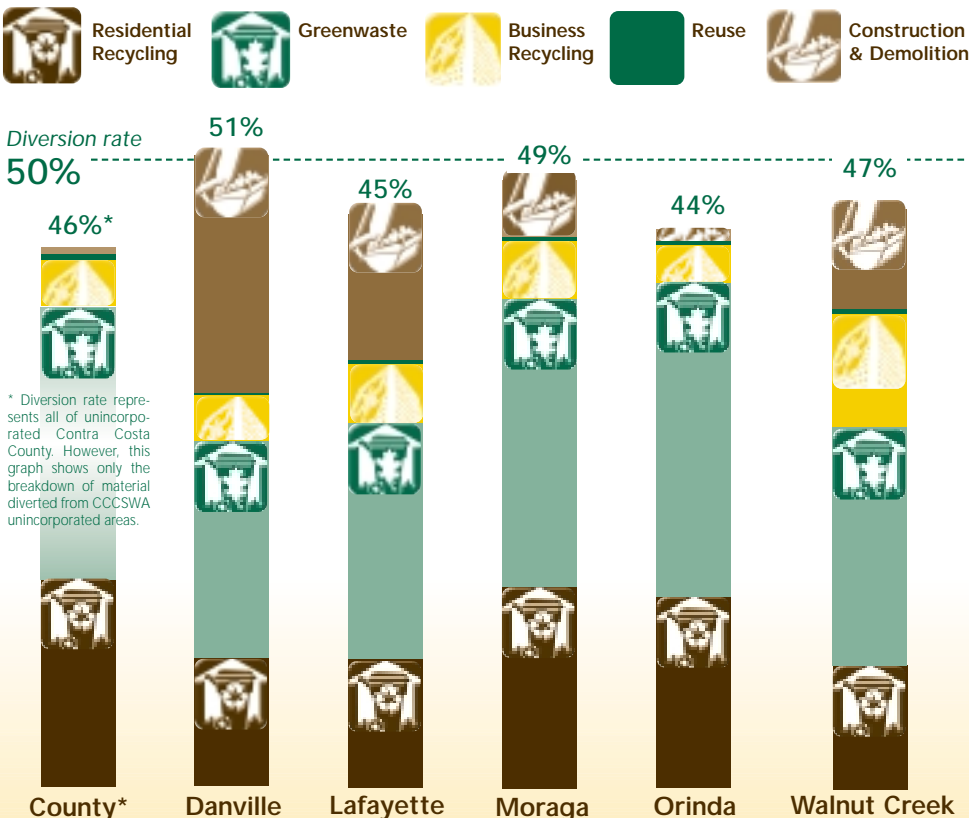
Rainwater and decomposing waste create liquids, known as leachate. Keller Canyon, built to Subtitle D legal specifications, has an extensive liner system that prevents the leachate from contaminating our groundwater supplies. This liner system, which costs \$250,000 per acre to install, consists of six layers. The layers, beginning with the deepest, are constructed of the following materials: an underdrain layer of sand; two feet of impermeable clay; 80 ml HDPE plastic; cushion fabric; one foot of pea gravel (leachate collection layer); and one foot of soil.

Besides leachate, decomposing waste creates gases such as methane and carbon dioxide. Methane is collected and is burned at a "flare station" in order to neutralize the greenhouse gases. Although leachate and gas indicate decomposition is happening, not everything in the landfill decomposes. Archaeologists have excavated old landfills to find food, newspapers, and clothing perfectly intact. So the next time you throw something "away," remember that it may never really go away.

Diverting 50% ...

IT ALL ADDS UP!

Your city's Diversion rate consists of recycling and reuse statistics from several different programs. The illustration below shows how much each program contributes to your city's total diversion.

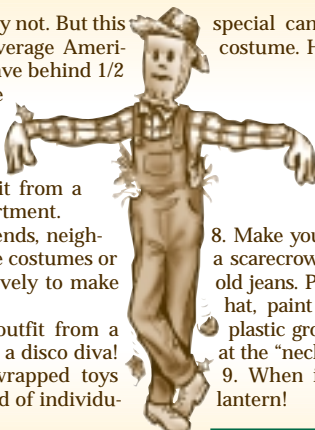


Make It a Low-Waste Halloween



BOO! Did we scare you? Probably not. But this little-known fact just might: An average American family of four in the US will leave behind 1/2 million pounds of household waste in their lifetimes. How to avoid such a ghoulish future? You can start this Halloween:

1. Rent your costume or borrow it from a school or theater costume department.
2. Host a costume swap, where friends, neighbors or co-workers can exchange costumes or clothing that can be used creatively to make a costume.
3. Borrow a uniform or vintage outfit from a relative. Be a nurse, a hippie, or a disco diva!
4. Hand out coins or small, unwrapped toys (like high-bouncing balls) instead of individually wrapped candy.
5. Make your own costume using reused items from the thrift store or even your recycling cart!
6. Use a pillow case or a canvas bag for candy instead of buying a plastic pumpkin, or make a



special candy container that relates to your costume. Here are some examples:

- Mary Poppins: a carpet bag
 - Demonic Doctor: a medical bag
 - Mermaid: a canvas bag decorated with crepe paper or fabric "seaweed."
7. Reuse your decorations from year to year.
 8. Make your own decorations. Example: make a scarecrow using a plaid shirt and overalls or old jeans. Put real straw or dried grass under a hat, paint a face on a paper bag, stuff with plastic grocery bags, newspaper or leaves, tie at the "neck" with a string.
 9. When it's all over, compost your jack-o-lantern!

Local resources:

- Assistance League Thrift Store & Costume Rental, 925-284-4781
- Lottie Ballou, (Benicia) 707-747-9433
- Dean Leshner Center for the Arts Costume Rental, 295-1444, x389
- East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, 510-547-6470

Open Garden Day is September 21

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Garden lovers have the opportunity to ask other Contra Costa gardeners this question during Open Garden Day on September 21. This year, the CCCSWA awarded a mini-grant to event organizers, Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE), to highlight composting. SAGE will designate composting gardens with a special symbol on the event map and ask gardeners to provide details about their methods.

Visitors can learn to compost at a CCCSWA-sponsored workshop during the event. For more information, visit www.sagecenter.org or call the CCCSWA composting hotline at 925-906-1806.



Delete Internet Marketing Waste

"You've Got Waste!"

Unsolicited CDs from internet service providers (ISPs) can be more wasteful than ordinary junk mail. Most of us receive these unrequested CDs in the mail or as giveaways from stores or online retailers. To recycle, we recommend you send unwanted CDs to one of the mail-in recyclers listed below. Call or visit the website for details.

- Green Disk 800-305-DISK Fee www.greendisk.com
- Ecomedia 800-359-4601 www.ecomedia.net

This past summer, ISP America Online (AOL) mailed thousands of unwanted CDs in tin cases. Production of this "metal mail" uses precious resources and creates hazardous waste and pollution – all for an item not desired by the recipient.

AOL has stated that recipients may mail unwanted CDs back to the company: 22000 AOL Way, Dulles, VA, 20166, Attn: Mailroom. They will be recycled in-house. To join a group campaign against AOL's "metal mail," go to the Act for Change website at www.workingforchange.com and select the Activism: "Environment" category. This site allows you to send a pre-formatted e-mail to AOL asking the company to use more environmentally conscious advertising methods.

Two young Berkeley residents, fed up with ever-present AOL disks, started a campaign to collect one million CDs. When they reach their goal, they plan to haul the CDs (by the truckload) to AOL's doorstep. They've just topped the 50,000 mark. To help them out, mail your AOL CDs to 1935 El Dorado Ave., Berkeley, CA, 94707. Visit www.nomoreolcds.com, where you'll find handy mailing labels and postage requirements.

If you receive other types of bulky junk mail, write or call the company and tell them you don't appreciate the extra waste. You can also request to be removed from their mailing list.



New, Convenient Service!

Buy a Biostack Bin with Your Credit Card

The Smith & Hawken Biostack compost bin (retail value \$90) is available to Central Contra Costa residents at the reduced price of only \$45. Visit www.wastediversion.org and use your Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express to order. Go to our website or call composting specialist Bart Carr at 906-1806 for guidance on how and what to compost.

Ask the Authority

Dear Authority:

By reading Diversions, I've learned that computer monitors and TVs are now legally classified as hazardous waste and, therefore, can't go into the regular trash. While it's good that the law will ensure these items are disposed of properly, shouldn't there be other laws to make recycling these and other electronics easier?

Law-Abiding in Lafayette

Dear Law-Abiding:

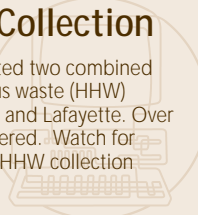
We heartily agree with you. Last year, over 3.2 million tons of electronics or "e-waste" ended up in US landfills. No longer accepted at the landfills, e-waste is increasingly found along our roadways and in our creeks. At the time of printing, two e-waste bills passed the California Senate and are pending approval from Assembly committees. SB 1523 and SB 1619 would provide matching grant money for local recycling programs, establish recycling goals, and require product labeling and responsible recycling practices. To pay for these programs, one bill states the intent to establish an advanced recovery fee on cathode ray tubes, as long as it does not put California companies at a competitive disadvantage. In addition, federal legislation has been introduced that will require the Environmental Protection Agency to administer a computer recycling grant program funded by an advanced recovery fee on all retail sales.

Make your voice heard by sending a message supporting the development of e-waste recycling to your representatives. Visit the Californians Against Waste website at www.cawrecycles.org for up-to-date information, sample letters and summaries of other environmental legislation.

Send questions to authority@wastediversion.org or 1280 Civic Dr., Suite 210, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

E-waste & HHW Collection

Last year the CCCSWA coordinated two combined e-waste and household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events held in Danville and Lafayette. Over 20 tons of electronics were recovered. Watch for information on the next E-waste/HHW collection event to be held this Fall.



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, 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 info 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