



Diversions

Summer 2003

A Publication of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

Making Sense of the Year 2001
"Diversion" Numbers

What Does It All Mean?

The "diversion," (or waste reduction) numbers are in for 2001: Central Contra Costans recycled 146,839 tons for a CCCSWA service area diversion rate of 47.9%.* But how does all this recycling help the environment?



To find out, we used the National Recycling Coalition's new, handy-dandy "environmental benefits calculator" and figured out how many resources were saved and how much pollution was prevented. Here are the results:

In 2001, you saved:

- 114 tons of iron ore
- 64 tons of coal
- 91 tons of steel
- 143,135 trees.

You also prevented:

- 108 tons of waterborne wastes, such as dissolved solids, ammonia and acid
- Nearly 56,700 MTCEs (Metric Tons of Carbon Equivalent) of greenhouse gas emissions
- Over 1,753,546 BTUs (British Thermal Units) of energy

Thanks to your efforts, a lot of resources weren't landfilled or extracted from the environment. Congratulations, and keep up the great work!

	Individual City Diversion Rates*	Total Tons Recycled
Danville	53%	36,760
Lafayette	51%	21,851
Moraga	51%	9,875
Orinda	49%	12,977
Walnut Creek	44%	65,376

*California Integrated Waste Management Board has not yet given final approval to the 2001 rates.

Reuse and Cleanup Days



Reuse and cleanup days are the most convenient way to get rid of unwanted stuff. No phone calls or trips to the thrift store. Simply place reusable items at the curb the day before your scheduled neighborhood cleanup. Complete details will be mailed to you about two weeks prior to the event.

Schedule:

Orinda/Moraga	Completed in May
Lafayette	June
Alamo, Diablo, Blackhawk	August
Danville	September
Walnut Creek	October

HHW & E-Waste Collection Event

Saturday June 14th in Danville
Call 1-800-207-8222
for an appointment.

Safely and conveniently dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) such as motor oil, paint, auto and household batteries, cleaners, solvents and pesticides. Also get rid of unwanted electronics such as computers, TVs, monitors, stereos, cell phones, answering machines and more.

• **The Other 50%** •

Is There Life After Trash?

What Happens When the Landfill Closes

When landfills are planned, experts estimate a potential life span - or an amount of time before the site is considered full and must be covered over permanently. Usually, portions of the total site are filled and subsequently closed in phases, until all cells are full and landfill operations cease.



After closure, the Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburg will return to agricultural grazing land.

Since all landfills require decades of post-closure management, the operator must make provisions to monitor and care for the site. Many important factors must be considered: gas control systems, groundwater monitoring, remediation equipment for potential groundwater contamination, vegetation suitability and land stability.

Potential uses for a closed sanitary landfill can include a nature or recreation park, animal refuge, tennis courts, golf course, parking lot, or commercial or industrial building site. Each type of land use carries its own post-closure management challenges. At the Kirby Canyon Landfill near Morgan Hill, Calif., the challenge is species protection. To meet the challenge, an agreement between the landfill operator, the City of San Jose and the US Fish & Wildlife Service was made to set up a Conservation Trust. This trust allows research to be conducted, including the monitoring of a rare butterfly population, and management of cattle grazing on a 267-acre parcel of habitat.

General Manager Norm Christensen of the Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburg says, "Our company is required to manage the site after the landfill closes. When this happens, many decades from now, the site will be returned to agricultural grazing land."

This is the final installment in the series on "The Other 50% - What Happens to our Landfilled Waste?" We hope you've enjoyed learning about the planning, management and infrastructure of solid waste management.

Schools Are Rewarded for "Busting" Waste

The CCCSWA is proud to announce the first official "Wastebusters" schools. Camino Pablo, Los Perales, Rheem and Springhill elementary schools have successfully reduced waste, and each received a \$2,000 cash award from the CCCSWA for their efforts. To be a Wastebuster, a school must complete a certification process that demonstrates recycling and other waste reduction efforts.



By participating, schools not only reduce landfilled waste, but also save the school district money on garbage disposal costs, provide interactive "hands-on" education, save resources and promote environmental stewardship practices. Congratulations, Wastebusters!

For information on the certification process or to receive an application, call 925-906-1804 or visit www.wastediversion.org.

Earth Day Poster Contest Winner



Sarah Buczek, a 10th grade student at San Ramon Valley High School, won the 2003 Earth Day Poster Contest. The contest was sponsored by the CCCSWA and the City of San Ramon. Congratulations, Sarah!

Leather Perfect is Perfect for Used Leather

Love that old leather jacket, but hate the shoulder pads? Bring it to Leather Perfect for a twenty-first century makeover. When you drop it off, allow some extra time so you can look over the great selection of used leather for sale on consignment. You'll find jackets worn to perfection, and you might be lucky enough to find that motorcycle jacket you've always wanted.

Owner Sandra Lahey opened Leather Perfect in 1988, first focusing on cleaning, repair, and alterations. She later added a consignment department and now offers men's and women's leather clothing for resale, including skirts, pants, purses,



Sandra Lahey, owner of Leather Perfect in Lafayette, shows off one of hundreds of leather goods available on consignment at her Lafayette store.

vintage pieces and a selection of that Bay Area essential - the leather jacket.

Lahey points out, "Used leather has an attractive patina and a look of history. Certain jackets look better when they're older, and a good purse can last several years." She adds, "Leather is ultimately reusable. Rather than toss a jacket away or let it languish in the closet, it makes sense to sell it and let someone else enjoy it."

*Leather Perfect, 3622 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. 925-283-5808
Hours of Operation: M-F 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

NEW Reuse Directory Available!

Leather Perfect (see above article) is one of the dozens of reuse businesses listed in the new *Contra Costa County Reuse Directory*. View a copy online at www.wastediversion.org or call 925-906-1801 to request your FREE copy.

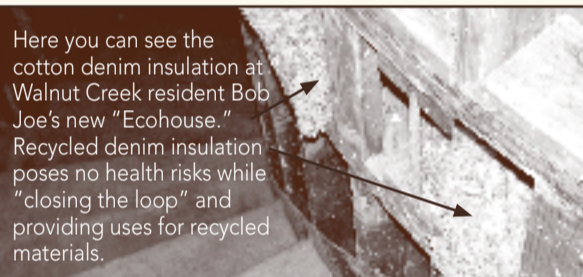


How to Beat the Heat Sustainably

Wasting Resources is So Un-Coolth!

It may be hard to believe, but the average air-conditioned home in the US consumes more than 2,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year, costing \$1,350! There are ways to reduce this energy consumption, and many of them also reduce solid waste.

One of the most important ways to improve the temperature regulation of your home is to upgrade the insulating material. Conventional fiberglass batts can leave gaps around pipes, junction boxes or outlets. An unprotected gap of only 4% can translate into a 50% heat gain (or loss). Also, fiberglass - composed of shredded glass fibers held together with a formaldehyde-binding agent - presents health issues. The glass fibers can irritate the skin and may increase the risk of skin and lung cancers. Because of these risks, most fiberglass insulation products carry warning labels.



Here you can see the cotton denim insulation at Walnut Creek resident Bob Joe's new "Ecohouse." Recycled denim insulation poses no health risks while "closing the loop" and providing uses for recycled materials.

By contrast, there are now natural fiber insulation materials that are non-toxic and made with recycled material. For example, an Austin, Texas company called Eco-Wise carries a material called "UltraTouch," made mostly of recycled cotton denim! Eco-Wise claims this material is formaldehyde-free, has superior acoustical properties to fiberglass and requires less energy to manufacture. A British company sells a product, called Thermafleecce, that is actually made of sheep's wool!

These alternative insulation materials are still installed in batt form, however, so they don't address the gapping issue. There are "green" alternative spray-on fibers that reduce or eliminate gapping. These are made of 50-100% recycled materials such as cellulose, wood and/or paper pulp. One product in this category is Cocoon, made by US GreenFiber of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Improving your home's insulation is just one of the many ways to keep your cool this summer, but it is an important place to start.

Local green insulation installers:

- Alcal Roofing & Insulation, 510-477-9380 recycled cellulose only
- American Synergy Corp., 800-439-9610 multiple "green" material types available
- McHale Insulation Co., Inc., 925-825-9780 recycled cellulose only



The Restoration Committee poses with the new sign made from recycled content materials. From left to right: Janet Abrams, Paul Causey, Bill Bergvall, Jim Cattlin, and Bob Simmons.

Castle Rock Park Hits a Home Run with Recycled Products

Jim Cattlin, one of the five volunteers on the Castle Rock Field Restoration Committee, knew the new sports field in Walnut Creek would need benches in the dugouts, recycling bins near the stands, and a sign at the street. When he opened his *Diversions* newsletter and read about the mini grants offered by CCCSWA, he decided to investigate eco-friendly options.

"After some research I found we could get dugout benches made of recycled plastics as well as recycling bins and a sign," Cattlin explained. "All those on the committee agreed it was a great idea." Cattlin applied for and received a CCCSWA mini-grant.

When we buy products made from recycled materials we "close the loop" by providing a market for recycled materials. Recycled products take less energy to manufacture and put fewer demands on our over-stressed environment. By purchasing recycled products, we ensure that the cycle of waste reduction can continue.

Ask the Authority

Dear Authority,

Are there any environmentally friendly auto repair shops in the area?

Motoring in Moraga

Dear Motoring,

There are several auto repair shops in the area that qualify as "Green Businesses." To be a green auto repair shop, the business must demonstrate pollution-preventing and waste reducing practices. The Association of Bay Area Governments administers a certification process.

By using green practices, 72 auto repair shops in Contra Costa together PREVENT the equivalent of*:

- 22 hot tubs of VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) contributing to air pollution
- Over 15 swimming pools of water polluted with oil, grease and antifreeze reaching the storm drains, creeks, Bay and Delta
- 10 pickup trucks of contaminated absorbent materials in the landfill
- One two-story house full of cardboard in the landfill

To find a "green" repair shop in your area, visit the Contra Costa Green Business website at www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/enviro/gbus/ShopGreenCCC.html or call 925-646-2286.

*Source: Contra Costa Green Business website

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