

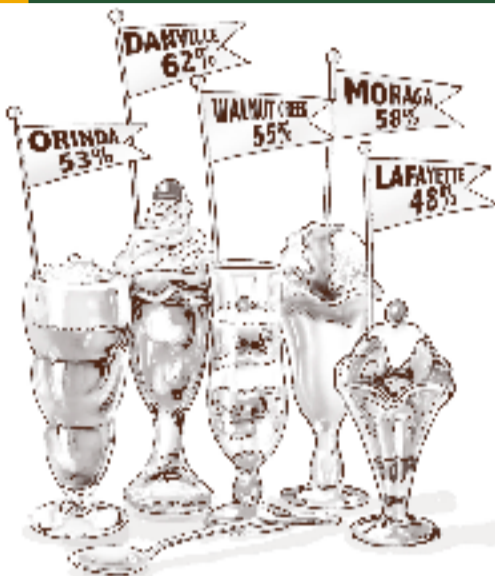


# Diversions

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## The 2003 Diversion Numbers Are In!

The CCCSWA recently submitted Central Contra Costa cities' 2003 diversion rates to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) for approval. The State requires all cities to divert at least 50% of materials from the landfill. Overall, all CCCSWA cities are doing quite well, and with the added convenience of single-stream recycling these diversion rates should increase even further in 2005.

What about 2004, you ask? Because of the time it takes to compile accurate data and obtain economic and population growth statistics, CCCSWA must wait about 15 months after the end of the calendar year to report rates. Check back next May for 2004 results.

## Photo Opinion: Single-Stream Recycling

How do like using your new single-compartment recycling cart?



Danville resident Effie Kristoferu says, "I love it! It's easier to handle. You don't have to think so hard about what to put where, and there's more space so I can recycle more."

## New Single-Stream Facility Opens

Pacific Rim Recycling (PRR) opened its doors to local officials and reporters on February 24 to debut its new processing facility in Benicia. The facility is specially designed to sort combined paper and container recyclables from the new no-sort or "single-stream" recycling carts. The recyclables from Central Contra Costa households in the "680 corridor"—



including Danville, Alamo, Blackhawk, and Walnut Creek—are now processed at this new facility.

PRR CEO Steve A. Moore announced, "We have built a state-of-the-art single-stream processing facility with new technology that separates materials with screens and magnets. This simplified process will help us become more efficient, contain program costs and keep CCCSWA residents' solid waste bills as low as possible, as well as make recycling more convenient."

Lamorinda-area recyclables will continue to be processed at Waste Management's Davis Street Transfer Station.

## The Waste-Cutting Edge

What Do You Mean, "Waste is Food"?!?

## How Much Waste is Too Much?

Last year Californians diverted 47% of all waste from landfills statewide. Here in Central Contra Costa, residents diverted even more—58%. So how much waste reduction is possible or, put another way, how much waste is acceptable? How about zero? Sound unrealistic? Consider this: natural ecosystems produce zero waste.

What do we mean? In her book *Biomimicry*, writer and forestry expert Janine Benyus explains the complete efficiency of an ecosystem this way:

"All waste is food...The only thing [a natural] community imports...is sunlight, and the only thing it exports is...heat."

Here's another amazing fact. If scientists are correct that life on Earth has existed for 4 billion years, and humans have only existed for the last one hundred thousand, it means the Earth was a zero waste system for at least 99.999% of its existence! In reality, significant waste has only existed for the past two hundred years, as human societies have industrialized. Looking at nature gives us a new perspective on waste. Although eliminating waste from our modern-day society may seem impossible, communities and businesses around the world—including right here in the Bay Area—have already set zero waste goals and are working actively toward them. More on this next time.



In a natural ecosystem, there is no such thing as waste. Anything discarded by one life form becomes a nutrient for another living thing.

## Local Students Broadcast Recycling Message



Acalanes High School teacher Lynne Bennet (center) shows Jacob Breslow and Brian Smick how to get the best shot. Their video included a waste audit that left them wondering why 60% of the materials found in the trash were recyclable?

"Every video was different and exciting." The audience was treated to several creative styles, including a music video and a newscast heightened by a recycling emergency.

For more on EarthTeam's interactive environmental education network, see [www.earthteam.net](http://www.earthteam.net).

Eight student videos on the topic "Our School, Our Planet," were screened April 6 at the Orinda Library. The event was coordinated by EarthTeam, a Bay Area organization for environmentally minded teens. Funded by the CCCSWA, EarthTeam worked with students at six high schools and two middle schools to produce videos with a recycling message.

"Teens made the videos to educate each other about the need for more recycling at school and beyond, and why they each should take personal responsibility to make it happen," said Lana Husser, EarthTeam coordinator.

## Reuse-a-Shoe Campaign Comes Back Around the Track

## Athletic Shoe Recycling

Are you sporting some new running shoes? Wondering what to do with the old pair? CCCSWA is collecting old athletic shoes again this year in partnership with Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe campaign. The old shoes are ground up and turned into Nike Grind, a surface used in playgrounds, running tracks, basketball and tennis courts.

### Starting in May

You have two convenient options for recycling:

- 1. Set out** your shoes on your scheduled Reuse and Cleanup days. (See article on page 2 for upcoming dates.)
  - 2. Drop off** old athletic shoes at the following locations:
    - Curves for Women, 3000 Danville Blvd., Alamo
    - Lafayette Health Club, 85 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette
    - 21 Minute Fitness, 1919 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek
    - Curves for Women, 1551 Palos Verde Mall, Walnut Creek
    - Tice Valley Gym, 2055 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek
    - Walnut Creek Recycling Center, 480 Lawrence Way, Walnut Creek
- Visit [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org) for the latest drop-off location information.

# Get Out and Enjoy the Recycling!

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation (WCOSF) both used their 2004 CCCSWA Mini-Grants to bring recycling awareness to the great outdoors.

Whether you're finishing a hike or a picnic, you may wonder what to do with your empty cans and bottles. If you happen to be at one of the East Bay Regional parks listed below, look for one of the distinctive green beverage container recycling bins.

EBRPD recently installed 10 new recycling bins in the following park areas:

- Redwood Park:** Orchard and Wayside picnic areas, Canyon Meadow parking lot, Skyline Gate
- Las Trampas:** main parking lot, Corral picnic area
- Iron Horse Trail:** Danville
- Lafayette/Moraga Trail:** Olympic staging area, St. Mary's staging area



Jerry Christopherson (right) of Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation joins Harvey Ceaser (left), Grayson Metcalf (center) and Hannah the dog for a relaxing rest on a recycled plastic bench.

For more information about the parks listed above, visit [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org).

If you want to get away from it all while staying close to home, take advantage of the efforts of the WCOSF, an organization dedicated to preserving the 3,000 acres of open space in Walnut Creek. The WCOSF installed five benches made of recycled plastic lumber in scenic spots throughout the open space reserves. Five more benches are planned for the future.

"Not only do the benches provide resting places so people can enjoy the views but they also keep people aware of the possibilities of using recycled products," said Jerry Christopherson of WCOSF. In fact, the benches "close the loop"—or in other words they fulfill the purpose of recycling by providing a marketable use for all those plastic bottles we've recycled!

For more about the WCOSF, including trail maps and recommended walks, visit [www.wcosf.org](http://www.wcosf.org).

## Dealing with Scavengers: Reuse and Cleanup Days

The day before a scheduled bulky item collection day, residents can set out reusable items for pickup. On this "Reuse and Cleanup Day," Pacific Rim Recycling collects, sorts and donates these reusable items to charities.



However, sometimes people drive through neighborhoods before Pacific Rim arrives and take items intended for donation. Called "scavenging" in the industry, this practice is outlawed by a CCCSWA ordinance. If you notice scavenging going on in your neighborhood, please do not confront scavengers. Instead, place your reusable items out in the morning (before 6 a.m.) rather than the night before. Most scavenging happens at night. If you witness scavenging, report it to your local police department using their non-emergency number. If possible, include the make, model and license plate number of the vehicle, and the address where the scavenging is taking place. You should also report it to Pacific Rim Recycling at 707-746-6067.

Community	Date
Moraga	May
Orinda	May
Lafayette	June

Look for a yellow flyer in the mail for exact dates and more details!

## Serve Your Plants Refreshing Compost Tea!

The lazy days of summer bring to mind pitchers of refreshing iced tea enjoyed while lounging on lawn chairs in the yard. Did you know you can share this experience with your plants? Brew up a batch of "compost tea," and serve your plants a nutritious refreshment. Here's how.

Take a bucket and fill it one-quarter full with fresh compost. Fill the remainder with water, and let the compost steep overnight. The next day this nutrient-rich water will be the color of tea, hence the name "compost tea."



Use the compost tea in two ways: spray on foliage or pour directly onto the soil. If using as a spray, be sure to strain the tea using cheesecloth or a fine mesh screen before putting it in the spray bottle. Compost tea must be used immediately after brewing, so don't bottle it for later use. If it smells bad, pour it back into the compost bin.

Spraying the foliage puts helpful microorganisms on the leaves and blossoms. Some of these "good bugs" help control "bad bugs," like fungal-type diseases, including Black Spot on roses and Powdery Mildew on fruit. Watering the soil with the tea makes nutrients readily available to plants—much more so than using compost as an amendment or mulch. Compost tea can be applied to both indoor and outdoor plants.

Compost tea is just one of the many versatile uses for compost. You can learn to make your own compost. The Home Composting for Busy People program offers free workshops and discounted bins. Visit [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org) or call the compost hotline at 925-906-1806 to register for a workshop, buy a discounted compost bin or for more information.

## Ask the Authority

Dear Authority,

I saw a BART billboard with your name on it that read, "Your Family's Health Begins at Home." Then it mentioned remodeling. I don't get it. What does remodeling have to do with health?

Confused in Contra Costa



Dear Confused:

Actually, you'd be surprised! Building materials can contain chemicals that release into the air or "off-gas," contributing to bad indoor air quality. For example, many paints, stains, and glues, as well as plywood and particleboard use formaldehyde, a chemical known to cause eye irritation, headaches and dizziness. Many healthier alternatives exist now, so there's no reason to settle for this kind of aggravation.

Not just for environmentalists, "green building" is the name for using smart design and quality materials to create homes that are actually healthier for people as well as the planet. Other healthy green techniques include radiant heating systems that use less energy and don't circulate dust and allergens, energy-efficient windows that keep rooms comfortable, and effective use of daylight. There are lots of other options, too! Contact the Green Resource Center at 1-888-40-GREEN or [www.greenresourcecenter.org](http://www.greenresourcecenter.org) to find out more.

## Contact Information

- CCCSWA** ..... **925-906-1801**  
**fax:** 906-1805 ..... **web:** [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org)  
**email:** [authority@wastediversion.org](mailto:authority@wastediversion.org)
- PLEASANT HILL BAYSHORE DISPOSAL** .. **925-603-1144**  
**fax:** 685-8153  
**web:** [www.pleasanthillbayshoredisposal.com](http://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:** 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 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**