



Diversions

Fall 2007

A Publication of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

PH032

Lamorinda To Start Food Scrap Composting in September

Residents in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda will soon be able to keep even more valuable resources out of the landfill. Starting in August, Valley Waste Management will deliver handy kitchen collectors to each household. These containers are a convenient way to collect many kinds of food scraps and food-soiled paper, including:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Cheese and bread
- Cereals, coffee grounds and tea bags



Collecting food scraps is a snap with the new program's kitchen collection containers.

The container fits neatly under the sink or hangs from a cabinet door. You can line the pail with newspaper, paper bags or paper towels to help keep things tidy. Then simply empty the container into your green yard trimmings cart. Combined food and yard trimmings will be picked up weekly on your usual collection day,

PLEASE: NO PLASTIC BAGS OR PLASTICS of ANY KIND

We know it's tempting, but do not collect your food scraps in plastic bags. And never place plastic of any kind (even biodegradable) into your green cart.

By participating in this new program, Lamorinda residents will ensure that leftover food scraps are transformed into a nutrient-rich soil amendment used by landscaping companies around the Bay Area.



Disappointing News about '05

Diversion Numbers Drop!

Sometimes numbers speak louder than words. The 2005 "diversion" numbers have spoken and, unfortunately, the news isn't so good. The bottom line is recycling is down and disposal is up, not just in one CCCSWA city, but in all of them. Ouch. Residential disposal went up by 3% (or roughly 500 tons). Residential recycling was actually slightly higher than in '04, but businesses in the area recycled 12% less. This resulted in an average drop in diversion of 5% among the various CCCSWA jurisdictions.

This is a problem for two reasons: first, the environment suffers; and second, some of our cities are no longer in compliance with state recycling law AB 939. This can mean big fines if the numbers aren't turned around. We each need to do our part to recycle at home and at work. For more information about what you can do, visit our website at www.wastediversion.org.

Note: These figures have been reported to the CIWMB; however, they have not been officially approved as of this printing.

The Waste-Cutting Edge

Green Lifestyle Award Winner Models Reuse

Mom's Green Ways Rub Off on Whole Family

Kristen Thall Peters spends her days helping clients comply with state and federal environmental laws. However, her job as an environmental attorney is not the only reason Peters' 15-year-old son, Kevin, nominated her for a CCCSWA Green Lifestyle Award. Peters is a partner at Cooper, White & Cooper, LLP in Walnut Creek, and co-chair of her firm's Green Practice Group. But she is a green mentor at home, too.



Reuse champions: Green Lifestyle Award winner Kristen Thall Peters and son Kevin show off their drawer full of reusable plastic containers.

The Peters family uses Tupperware instead of throwaway plastic bags. During a recent remodel, they also "deconstructed" their home rather than demolishing it. According to Kevin, his mom did some research and found The Reuse People, through which she donated "most everything in our house, from the fixtures and appliances to the wood framing, to be used again in homes built by Habitat for Humanity."

Occasionally, Kevin and his younger brother Sean get embarrassed, says Kristen, smiling. "They don't like their friends seeing them taking their smoothie containers back to Jamba Juice for a refill." But even Kevin admits his mom's green ways are beginning to rub off. "When I see empty water bottles on the ground at school, I pick them up and put them in a recycle bin."

Congratulations, Kristen and keep up the great work!

Overstuffed Green Cart?

Here in Contra Costa County, we're blessed with the kind of weather that allows avid gardeners to continue well into the fall. The only downside is more yard clippings to deal with. What to do when your green cart is overflowing? There are actually lots of options!



First, for an additional monthly charge, you can request a second 64-gallon cart. This is your best option if you run out of room every month.



If green waste overflow is more of a rare occurrence at your house, make use of your free on-call green waste pickups. Call (925) 935-8900 to set up an appointment and to find out more about what materials are allowed, as well as the minimum and maximum amounts.



Finally, consider backyard composting. You'll be amazed at how much material can be gobbled up by millions of microorganisms in a short time! For more information, go to www.wastediversion.org/composting.htm.

Monthly Garbage Bill Discount Program Thriving

Certified Composters Grow in 2006

The Central Contra Costa certified composting community reached an all-time high of 1,512 households in 2006. Thank you, composters for saving valuable resources! Besides the \$1.50 per month discount, we hope you will also be rewarded with a healthy soil amendment for your garden.

To become certified, residents must fill out a short application. Call the Home Composting for Busy People program at 925-906-1806 or visit www.wastediversion.org for more information.

Green Re-Models, The Sequel

To continue our series on ecologically minded kitchen remodels, we'd like to tell you about a number of exciting green countertop materials. And if green is not the color scheme you had in mind, don't worry. These counters come in lots of colors!

Alkemi

Alkemi by Renewed Materials is made from aluminum scrap, at least 60% of which the company says is from post-industrial sources. The material comes in a variety of colors, including a brilliant cobalt blue! Find out more at www.renewedmaterials.com.

Richlite

Believe it or not, Richlite countertop material is made from cellulose fiber (paper) and resin. The chief environmental benefit of Richlite is that it is made from a renewable resource instead of leaving a "permanent hole in the ground" like granite and marble do. For more information visit www.richlite.com.



Time to replace your kitchen countertop? Many materials available now are durable, non-toxic, resource-efficient and great-looking, too.

lose fiber (paper) and resin. The chief environmental benefit of Richlite is that it is made from a renewable resource instead of leaving a "permanent hole in the ground" like granite and marble do. For more information visit www.richlite.com.

Vetrazzo

Vetrazzo is made from 100% recycled glass and comes in just about any color in the rainbow. The company says its glass sources range from used bottles to decommissioned traffic lights. Find out more at www.vetrazzo.com.

There are other green countertop materials out there. Go to www.greenhomeguide.com, or do your own web search and see what you can find!

Are You Recycling Everything You Can?

Curb Waste by Recycling More!

Central Contra Costa's single-stream recycling program makes it easy for you to recycle all kinds of things. Of course, bottles, cans, and newspapers go into your burgundy cart for curbside pickup. But did you know you might be able to recycle other stuff that would otherwise wind up in the landfill?

Try doing a waste audit at your own home. First, spread out old newspapers and empty the contents of your trash containers and take a look. Chances are, you'll find something you could be recycling, such as junk mail, small cardboard containers and clothing tags, and receipts. Aluminum foil and most plastic containers (#1-#5 and #7) can also go into the burgundy cart. The good news is that you can save money by recycling more and switching to a smaller blue garbage cart. For more information, go to www.wastediversion.org/rates or call Allied Waste Services at (925) 603-1144.

And please remember to keep plastic bags, batteries, electronics, Styrofoam, and medical waste out of your recycling cart. For more information on what can and cannot go into your recycling cart, please contact Valley Waste Management at (925) 935-8900 or log onto www.wastediversion.org and click on the residential customer guide.



Congratulations, New and Recertified Wastebuster Schools!

The CCCSWA Wastebusters program recognizes and rewards schools that are demonstrating a strong commitment to reducing waste. Current Wastebusters include:

Newly Certified

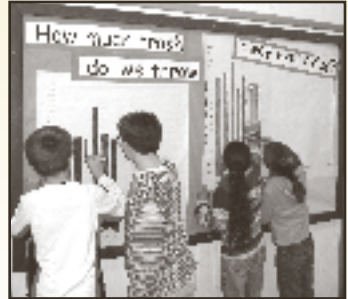
Walnut Creek
Parkmead Elementary

Recertified

Lafayette
Acalanes High School
Burton Valley Elementary
Happy Valley Elementary
Lafayette Elementary
Springhill Elementary
Moraga
Donald Rheem Elementary
Camino Pablo Elementary

Orinda
Orinda Intermediate School

Walnut Creek
Buena Vista Elementary
Walnut Heights Elementary



Students at Buena Vista Elementary graph results from a school lunch waste assessment. Buena Vista has been a Wastebuster school for four years.



Reuse and Cleanup Days Fall Schedule

- Donate reusable items.
- Dispose of broken and unusable large items.

Look for detailed instructions with your garbage bill.

Unicorp. Co.	August
Danville	September
Walnut Creek	October
Moraga	November
Orinda	November
Lafayette	December



Ask the Authority

Dear Authority,

I dread winter when my mailbox overflows with holiday catalogs. Even if I recycle them, I still feel guilty that so many trees are being cut down. How can I avoid getting all this junk mail, without being a Grinch?

Alice in Walnut Creek



Dear Alice,

If you act now, you might be able to stem this year's tide of unwanted catalogs and junk mail by requesting and filling out a Stop Junk Mail Kit. Visit www.wastediversion.org or call CCCSWA at 925-906-1801 to request your free copy, and ask these overzealous marketers to ho, ho, hold the junk mail! Nearly 100 million trees are used for junk mail every year in the U.S. Let's keep the trees in the forest and the junk mail out of your life.

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.awsgcc.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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