

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



408-283-9250
www.westvalleyrecycles.com

Spring 2007



Single-stream makes recycling easy



This is a correct cart set-out. Carts should be at the curb by 6 a.m. for service (with wheels against the curb). All materials go in carts, except oil jugs and oil filter bags, which must be placed curbside. The blue cart is for recycling, the green for green waste, and the brown for garbage.



This is an incorrect cart set-out. The carts' wheels must be against the curb. All cardboard must be placed in the cart. Green waste must be placed in the cart. Lids must be closed.

Before kicking off the new single-stream recycling program, we talked to residents. Do you know what we learned? A simple set-out procedure would increase participation and a large container would encourage more recycling each week. We heard you!

All single-family residences, as well as many multi-family complexes and commercial businesses, have received new, blue recycling carts. Most of these carts are the supersized 95-gallon carts, helping maximize recycling. (Smaller 35- and 65-gallon carts are also avail-

able for single-family residential customers.)

These carts make set-out easier for residents. They also make collection easier for the recycling hauler because they can be serviced by an automated collection vehicle. The commingled recyclables are delivered to the West Valley Collection & Recycling (WVC&R) Material Recovery Facility, where materials are sorted.

All recyclable materials go into your recycling cart. Recyclables include paper and cartons; textiles; metals; glass bottles and jars; and plastic and polystyrene bottles,

containers, and bags. (Please bag all plastic bags together and knot the top.) For an extended list of what can and cannot be recycled, please refer to the "How-to Guide."

Some multi-family housing complexes and commercial businesses have large white bins (dumpsters) for recyclables. If you recycle in these type of bins, you can recycle the same materials. Whether you recycle in a cart or bin, you may mix all of your recyclables together.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the new services?

At the request of many residents, we now offer *single-stream recycling* in a cart that is easy to maneuver and take to the curb.

We provide a *permanent drop-off site for Universal Waste and E-Waste* for residential customers. You may bring the items to WVC&R's processing facility by appointment.

We are *picking up your garbage and green waste in one split-body truck which has two separate compartments*. This will mean less traffic in your neighborhoods, less noise, and less wear and tear on your streets.

What are the new green waste services?

You are encouraged to use your previous hauler-supplied yard trimmings cart. Or, if you didn't have a cart before, you can order a new green waste cart from WVC&R. The automated collection process requires that the green waste material be placed into a cart. We will not be able to pick up extra bags or bundles

set on the ground. Based on past levels of green waste collected, it was determined that three carts should be adequate for the majority of residents.

Can I still use home banking through my bank to pay my bill?

Yes, you can still use home banking. You will need to change the payee and address to:

West Valley Collection & Recycling
1333 Oakland Road
San Jose, CA 95112

You will also need to change the account number to your new WVC&R account number.

What if I had automatic payments set up with Green Valley Disposal? Will the information be forwarded to West Valley Recycling & Collection?

If you had automatic payments with Waste Management, you will want to cancel that service with them. There will not be a rollover into our billing system.

"How-to" Guides

To receive your free "How-to Guide," call Customer Service at 408-283-9250 or visit www.westvalleyrecycles.com.

Now serving you!



West Valley Collection & Recycling (WVC&R) is a joint venture between two well-established solid waste and recycling companies in the bay area, Green Team of San Jose and GreenWaste. We were selected by West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority to be your new service provider.

WVC&R provides single-stream recycling, green waste, and garbage collection services to residents living in single-family homes and multi-family complexes. For commercial businesses,

WVC&R provides single-stream recycling and garbage collection services. If you have questions about these services, please contact us:

West Valley Collection & Recycling
1333 Oakland Road
San Jose CA 95112-9894
408-283-9250
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customerservice@westvalleyrecycles.com

The West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority was formed several years ago to offer improved solid waste services to the residents and businesses of Los Gatos, Saratoga, Campbell, and Monte Sereno.

10 Tips for Creating Compost

You can make your own backyard compost. The ingredients you'll need are readily available—"green" and "brown" organic waste, water, and air. After you've mixed these ingredients and given them some time to cook, you'll have a finished compost that will make a nutritious amendment for your soil.

Follow these steps to create your own compost:

1. Choose a level area in your yard. You don't want your compost bin or pile to be in the way, but you don't want it too far away from your source of organic material either. You'll need at least a 3 by 5 foot area to give your pile or bin room to

2. Select a spot that is out of direct sunlight most of the day.
3. Make sure that you have access to water nearby and a hose that will reach the spot.
4. Use a heap, build your own bin, or purchase a commercial compost bin. The size and type will depend on how much organic material you have available and how fast you want your compost to cook.
5. Layer "brown" yard waste, such as dry leaves and dead plants, with "green" organic waste, such as grass clippings and fruit and vegetable scraps. You'll want about 2 parts

"green" for every one part "brown." If you are grasscycling most of your lawn clippings, coffee grounds are a good "green" organic material (even though they are colored brown); coffee grounds are a source of nitrogen, as are other "greens." Mix the material as you fill your compost bin or build your heap. Be sure that food scraps are at least 10 inches below the surface of the pile—this will keep unwanted visitors away.



6. Chop larger waste, such as twigs, into smaller pieces. You can chop this material manually using trimmers or loppers, or you can run twigs and branches through a chipper/shredder. (You could share a chipper/shredder with your neighbors or rent one.) Chopping this woody waste will help it rot more quickly.
7. Turn the pile at least every other week. Use a pitchfork, a shovel, or a compost turner. Be sure that the material is thoroughly mixed each time you turn it. The more often you turn your pile, the more quickly your material will decompose.
8. Add water if your pile becomes dry. Mix the water evenly through the material. During most weather conditions, your pile should be moist but not soaking wet. If your pile becomes soggy during wet weather, turn and mix the material to add air and help dry it out. A tarp can help keep your composting materials from getting too wet during heavy rains.
9. Give your compost up to six months to cook and cure. For faster compost, turn the pile more often. When the

- waste has become dark and crumbly, you have compost!
10. Spread the compost as mulch around trees or under bushes, mix it into your garden soil, or combine it with soil or sand to make a great potting soil.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/composting/by_compost.htm or contact the Cooperative Extension Service.

DO compost these:

- Grass clippings
- Twigs and leaves
- Coffee grounds, filters, and tea bags
- Egg shells (ground into tiny pieces)
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Shredded newspaper
- Dryer lint

DON'T put these in the pile:

- Diseased plants
- Weeds that have gone to seed
- Plants that are spread by runners, such as Morning Glory or Buttercup
- Cat, dog, hog, or human waste
- Chemically treated wood products
- Glossy or coated papers
- Ashes
- Meat and fish scraps and bones
- Oils and other fatty food products
- Milk products



A composter's diary

Do worms have lungs? Can corks go in compost piles? These are just two of the questions handled by compost hotline operator Spring Gillard at City Farmer, Vancouver, British Columbia's non-profit

urban agriculture group that has been thriving for 25 years. Gillard began her diary with online posts in 1996. Through humorous stories, silly scenes, and even a compost "rap," the posts touched on the essentials of composting, alternatives to pesticides, organic and edible landscapes, compost teas, drug-free lawns, rainwater harvesting, and urban agriculture in big cities. Laugh and learn as you read *Diary of a Compost Hotline Operator: Edible Essays on City Farming* by Spring Gillard (New Society Publishers, 2003).

The Possibilities Are Endless... Compost!

International Compost Awareness Week is May 6-12, 2007. Compost Awareness Week would be a great time to show off your compost pile to the neighbors, start a new pile, buy compost to use in your garden, or plant a tree using compost to prepare the soil. For more information, visit www.CompostingCouncil.org and click on "Compost Week."

How green is your party?

We're fast approaching the season of graduation parties and weddings. Each year in the United States, more than 2.7 million youth graduate from high school, nearly 1.2 million adults graduate from college, and 2.27 million couples marry. That's over 6 million pieces of paper—just for the diplomas and marriage certificates. When you add to it the invitations, announcements, greeting cards, and thank-you notes, as well as the special clothes, the decorations, the food, and the gifts, you have a huge pile of stuff, some of which almost immediately becomes waste.

For instance, if you purchase a "Congratulations, Graduate!" banner, what happens to it after the party? What becomes of the wedding reception centerpieces? How about the envelopes that held the invitations, cards, and other correspondence? If you use paper plates and cups for the party, where are they at the end of the day? As you can see, these celebrations have the potential to leave behind a lot of waste.

You can make your festive occasions

less wasteful. Whether you are hosting a graduation party, a wedding reception, a family reunion, a retirement celebration, or a business or school meeting, you can plan ahead and create less waste. Here are some ideas to help you get started:

- Avoid a lot of extra paper in invitations, such as double envelopes and reply card envelopes. If you need replies, request a phone call, an e-mail, or include a stamped, self-addressed postcard.
- For less formal events, e-mail your invitations. Remember to call to invite people who don't have e-mail addresses!
- Print everything, from invitations to programs, on recycled-content paper.
- Look for used clothing for the occasion. If you need formal wear, costumes, and or just a different summer dress, shop at secondhand or vintage stores. Accept hand-me-downs with thanks!
- Rent or borrow apparel that you won't use again. For the men, rent tuxes or

suits or borrow a friend's jacket for the event. Women can also rent many items or borrow from a friend or relative. If you often attend semi-formal events, create a "swap shop" with your friends so that you can trade clothes and have something new-to-you to wear.

- Decorate with what you already have. For instance, if you're toasting a graduate, decorate with childhood photos.
- Use washable and reusable plates, cups, napkins, and tablecloths. If you are hosting an event and don't have enough for the number of guests who will be attending, rent or borrow extras. Minimize your use of disposables, and you'll minimize your waste.
- Whatever kind of party you're hosting, recycle! Be sure that beverage container recycling bins are located near each trash bin. For multi-day events, such as family reunions or meetings, be sure to provide newspaper recycling, too.

- Send leftovers home with guests. Donate unopened and non-perishable leftover food to a food pantry.
- Avoid party favors. Your guests are there to share your special event—not to take a goodie bag home! If you think you must give some kind of party favors, give things that are consumable, such as candy, cookies, teas, or coffees.
- If you register for gifts, be sure to register for things you really need and will use.
- Instead of gifts, ask guests to donate to a cause or charitable organization or to bring canned or boxed goods to donate to a food pantry.
- When you buy gifts, look for durable and reusable products. Or, consider giving future events that the recipient will enjoy, such as a museum membership, theater tickets, movie passes, or restaurant gift certificates.
- Donate or re-gift items that you can't use rather than storing what you don't need and won't use.



Share the good news about Earth Day

In the early 1960s, Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed a nationwide conservation tour to President John F. Kennedy. The tour, which took place in September 1963, was overshadowed by other events. However, six years later, in the summer of 1969, Nelson got the idea for a national “teach-in” about the environment. Planning began for this teach-in, which was dubbed Earth Day and set for April 22, 1970. A call went out. And Americans responded.

Going into that first Earth Day, no one could have predicted what was about to occur. School children, college students, community leaders, public officials, and citizens mobilized a huge, grassroots effort. By April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans, or 10 percent of our nation’s population in that year, took part.

This demonstration for the environment brought about sweeping changes at the federal and state levels. Later that same year, President Richard Nixon established the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by Executive Order. In the years that followed, dozens of environmental laws were passed, protecting our coastlines, clearing our air, and cleaning up our water supplies.

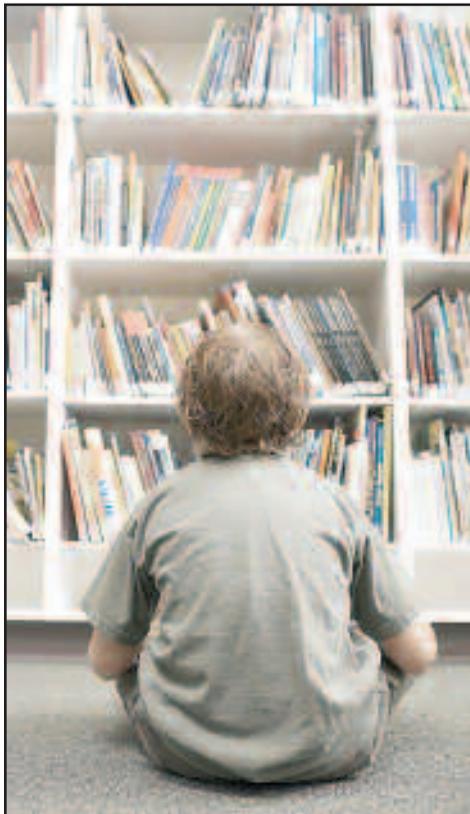
Today, nearly 40 years later, the successes of Earth Day are readily apparent. The worst of our day-to-day environmental problems have been addressed. In most places and by most standards, we have cleaner air and safer water than we did four decades ago.

However, this year and every year, Earth Day reminds us that there is still work to be done. We’ve cleaned up many of our old messes, but we aren’t finished. Plus, we need to continue to monitor our progress, making adjustments and improvements as testing and technology change. And, of course, along the way, we’ve created some new problems, such as the huge pile of electronics that we discard each year.

The good news is that Earth Day—then and now—is about individuals acting to make a difference. Today, you can make that difference. Get involved. Reduce the amount of waste in your life—conserve energy, save water, and create less trash. Recycle all that you can, providing useful materials to the manufacturing process. And, spread the word, especially to children and youth. Someday soon this will be their environment. Show them how and why to take care of it now.



A checklist for the planet



It’s almost Earth Day. Are you ready? Use this checklist to help you evaluate your actions. This will also give you some ideas for improving your planet-friendly habits.

- I turn off the lights when I leave the room.
- I have replaced at least some of my incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents.
- I turn off TVs, games, music players, and computers when I’m not using them.
- When I purchase new electrical appliances and electronics, I look for the “Energy Star” certification.
- I keep my showers short.
- I turn off the water while brushing my teeth.
- I walk or bike for short trips instead of hopping in the car.
- I plan my errands and trips so that I drive the fewest possible miles and spend the least possible amount of time stuck in traffic or sitting at stop-lights.
- I turn off my engine and walk inside rather than idling in drive-through lanes.
- I buy secondhand and used goods whenever possible.
- I am creative in reusing what I have by finding new uses for old stuff.
- I’m a regular at the local library, borrowing books, movies, CDs, and more.
- I use both sides of paper.
- I recycle all of the materials accepted in my local program.
- When I travel, I look for and use recycling bins for beverage containers and newspapers.
- I use refillable water bottles.
- I never mix hazardous chemicals or other hazardous waste with my household trash.



QUOTES REQUOTED

Every increased
possession loads
us with a new
weariness.

John Ruskin, 1819–1900
Author and Social Critic

Eco Action through Action Sports

The X Games are all about extreme action on the ramps and the slopes. But the organizers are also serious about extreme environmental activity. From on-site recycling and environmental education for spectators to clean energy credits to offset carbon emissions created by the event, the X Games are walking their talk, or should we say “grinding their rail.”

Here are a few of the eco-friendly actions that have been a part of the recent Winter and Summer X Games. The plastic bottles from Winter X 10 were used to create 21,000 snow jackets insulated with fiberfill made from recycled plastic beverage bottles. The 360 truckloads of dirt used to build the Moto X track for Summer X 12 will be reused to build tracks at future action sports events. The skateboard ramps at the summer games were made from wood grown in sustainable forests or built using reclaimed wood from previous events. This wood will be reused for future events.

For more information about the X Games “Environmentality,” visit <http://disney.go.com/environmentality/xgames/index.html>.



A cart for your green waste

As a single-family resident when you made your cart selections, you were encouraged to keep the yard trimmings cart you had been provided by your previous hauler. Or, if you didn't have a cart before, you could order a new green waste cart from WVC&R. Green waste carts are offered in three sizes, 35-, 65-, and 95-gallon, to meet the needs of all sorts of yards.

Green waste carts are set out at the curb on the same day as the garbage and recycling. Place these yard trimmings in your green cart for collection:

- Branches (3 feet or shorter in length and 6 inches or less in diameter)
- Flowers
- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Palm fronds
- Small prunings
- Sod (remove as much soil as possible)

Please remember—NO ashes, concrete, dirt, fruit, vegetables, lumber, pumpkins, pet waste, or rocks should be placed into the green waste cart.



Annual Cleanup

West Valley Collection & Recycling will notify residents by mail two weeks prior to your cleanup date.

These are the guidelines that you must follow on your cleanup day:

- All waste must be left at the curb by 6 a.m.
- Items, where appropriate, should be placed in carts, cans, bags, or boxes.
- Tree prunings and branches cannot exceed 3 inches in diameter, or be longer than 3 feet, and can weigh no

more than 70 pounds per bundle.

- Items that cannot be safely loaded by one person will not be accepted. No single item can weigh more than 70 pounds.
- These materials will NOT be picked up: hazardous waste, including waste oil and antifreeze; concrete or dirt; tires; and items containing CFCs, such as refrigerators or freezers containing Freon.

Old carts, new carts

Garbage Carts and Cans: If you have an old green or grey garbage cart provided by your previous hauler, please do not use it at the curb. If you have a metal or plastic garbage can that you purchased on your own, please do not use it at the curb any longer. You may wish to use it for storage around the house. In April, you will receive a sticker from WVC&R that says, "Recycle Me," along with instructions on how to place your carts or cans at the curb for WVC&R to pick up and recycle.

Recycling Cans and Tubs: If you have the old set of three tubs for sorting recyclables, please do not use them at the curb any longer. They are yours to keep to use for storage or around the house, if you wish. In April, you will receive a sticker from WVC&R that says, "Recycle Me," along with instructions on how to place your cans or bins at the curb for WVC&R to pick up and recycle.

Yard Trimmings Cart: If you have a yard trimmings cart provided by your previous hauler, you may continue to set this out at the curb for service.

If you need differently sized carts than you received, please call WVC&R Customer Service at 408-283-9250 or e-mail customerservice@westvalleyrecycles.com. Typically cart exchanges occur on your next collection day.

Commercial Corner

West Valley Collection & Recycling provides multi-family housing complexes and commercial businesses with services similar to those offered to single-family residences. If you do not currently have recycling containers and would like to participate in the recycling program, please call 408-283-9250 to request a recycling bin at no additional charge. Because of the new single-stream recycling, it is no longer necessary to utilize the blue recycling carts; you can now place all your recyclable materials in the white recycling bin. In the event that you only have blue recycling cart(s), please put all of your recyclables into these cart(s). Recycling is included in the cost of your garbage service, so there are no extra fees for these recycling bins.

Contact Information

West Valley Collection & Recycling, LLC

1333 Oakland Road
San Jose, CA 95112-9894
408-283-9250

www.westvalleyrecycles.com
customerservice@westvalleyrecycles.com

County of Santa Clara Household Hazardous Waste

408-299-7300
www.hhw.org

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CONTENT, USING SOY INKS
*Please recycle this publication
after you have read it!*

Garbage in, hazards out

Some things just don't belong in the trash! Instead, keep these materials safely stored until you can make an appointment and deliver them to the Material Recovery Facility in San Jose. At the Material Recovery Facility, you can drop off Universal Waste and E-Waste by appointment only. This service is available *for residents only* for materials used in and around their homes. Please call 408-283-9250 to make your appointment.

Universal Waste includes, but is not limited to, common household batteries, water-based paints, used motor oil and oil filters, fluorescent tubes and bulbs and other mercury-containing lamps, thermostats, electronic devices, electrical switches and relays, pilot light sensors, mercury gauges, mercury added novelties, mercury thermostats and non-empty aerosol cans that contained hazardous materials.

E-Waste is discarded electronic equipment, such as television sets, computer monitors, central processing units (CPUs), laptop computers, external computer hard drives, computer keyboards, computer mice, computer printers, cell phones, DVD players, and VCRs.

Other hazardous materials, such as automotive fluids, lawn and garden chemicals, and household cleaners and poisons, can be disposed through the Santa Clara County Hazardous Waste Recycling and Disposal Program. For details, call 408-299-7300 or visit www.hhw.org.

