



Debris Detective

We have a sleuthing activity for you this summer. See what your family's chucking with this scorecard!

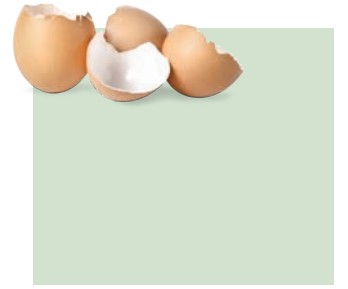
How many of these items does your family compost each week?



Tally to keep track of how many you toss!



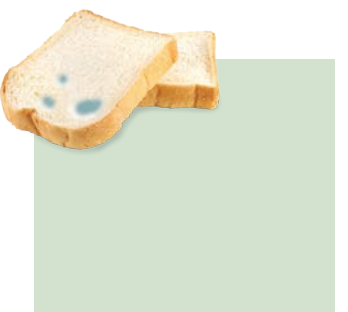
Banana peels, carrot tops, things that can't be eaten



Bones or shells from meat, eggs, seafood



Table scraps (unfinished meals)



Food that went bad (like moldy bread or rotten fruit!)



Dirty paper napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes

Tell your family what you learned and they can use it to adjust their shopping or composting habits.

Bonus points if you find items that don't go in the compost—you can take them out and put them in the correct place. If you have questions about a specific item, you can always go to RecycleSmart.org/apts-condos/green-bin for help!



PRESORTED STANDARD US POSTAGE PAID CONCORD, CA PERMIT NO. 122



Nourishing our neighborhoods

Every year **tons of edible food** gets thrown into RecycleSmart's compost bins. That's better than the landfill, but it's still a waste—especially since there are thousands of families in our county who need healthy meals.

Fortunately, there's a solution! There are organizations within Contra Costa County working to manage edible food donation. Local businesses can donate unused produce, canned goods, dairy products, and prepared meals. Edible food donation provides food to our neighborhoods and reduces waste by diverting useable food from the compost and landfill streams.

Edible food donation is a great idea, and soon it will be the law (for commercial food providers).

Donation organizations like Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties, White Pony Express, Copia, St. Vincent De Paul can get food quickly to communities where it's needed most. Businesses benefit too—they can enjoy tax benefits and make smarter purchasing decisions for the future.

As part of California's waste-reduction bill, SB 1383, most food providers (like supermarkets, restaurants, and large institutions with on-site kitchens) will be required to participate in donation programs starting in 2022. You can learn more at RecycleSmart.org/food-recovery

SOME EXTRA FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Many food donation programs rely on volunteer support. If you'd like to get involved, more information is on our website at RecycleSmart.org/food-recovery



Ready to feed families in need!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Money-saving scavenger hunt
- Reducing food waste across Contra Costa
- Sticker contest winners!

Students earn an A+ in recycling



Congratulations to these five outstanding students! Each of them earned a Waste Reduction Student Scholarship this year! Each year, RecycleSmart awards scholarships to several high school students who made real change and reduced waste at their schools.

This year's scholarship winners are (clockwise from top):

AVA SPARACIO (TOP)
Campolindo High School
Even in middle school, Ava helped organize to ban styrofoam from schools in her district. Her activism includes the Environmental Club at Campolindo, Fridays for the Future and Save Mount Diablo. She starts at California State University (CSU) Chico this fall, studying Civil Engineering. The cities of the future are in good hands!

ELENA RICH (TOP RIGHT)
Las Lomas High School
Elena joined the Green Team at her school to cut food waste by taking inventory of the school's waste bins (use the chart inside to do this at home!). She kept the team organized and coordinated with school faculty and other student groups. She will study Environmental Science at University of California Davis.

KRISTA CASIMERE (BOTTOM RIGHT)
Miramonte High School
Krista's dedication to sustainability is all-encompassing. When she wasn't upcycling thrift shop clothing, she co-led Miramonte's Environmental Club. She will start at Loyola Marymount University this fall, studying Environmental Studies and Political Science (a powerful combination)!

ALEXANDRA YOKOMIZO (BOTTOM LEFT)
Campolindo High School
Lexi collaborated with multiple groups to create a fun recycling behavior video. In just two months after its release, Campolindo's waste diversion rate increased from 48% to 54%! She will study Environmental Science at CSU Monterey Bay this fall.

TESS HORNBECK (TOP LEFT)
Miramonte High School
Inspired by a trip to Ecuador, Tess coordinated with different clubs across campus to implement a student-run bin monitoring program during lunch. Her commitment will continue this fall as she studies sustainability at University of New Hampshire. Complete info about our scholarships is at RecycleSmart.org/schools-programs



Celebrating our sticker artists!

Congratulations to young artist **Alexandra**, 13, from Walnut Creek, the winner of the RecycleSmart Sticker Art Contest!

Alexandra created the outstanding poster, above, to remind us that fruit stickers are trash, not compost!

We received quite an array of terrific submissions and were happy to send a prize pack to the artists. Themes of worms, trees, and dinosaurs delighted the panel of judges. Thank you to all of the young readers who participated:

- Alexandra**, 13, Walnut Creek
- Alice**, 7, and little sister **Lucy Annabelle**, 6, Lafayette
- Caleb**, 17, Lafayette
- Ellie**, 9, Lafayette
- Gillian**, 8, Walnut Creek
- Ibrahim**, 7, Walnut Creek
- Kaitlyn**, 10, Moraga
- Luther**, 6, **William**, 4, and **Jackson**, 2, Orinda
- Valentine**, 7, Walnut Creek



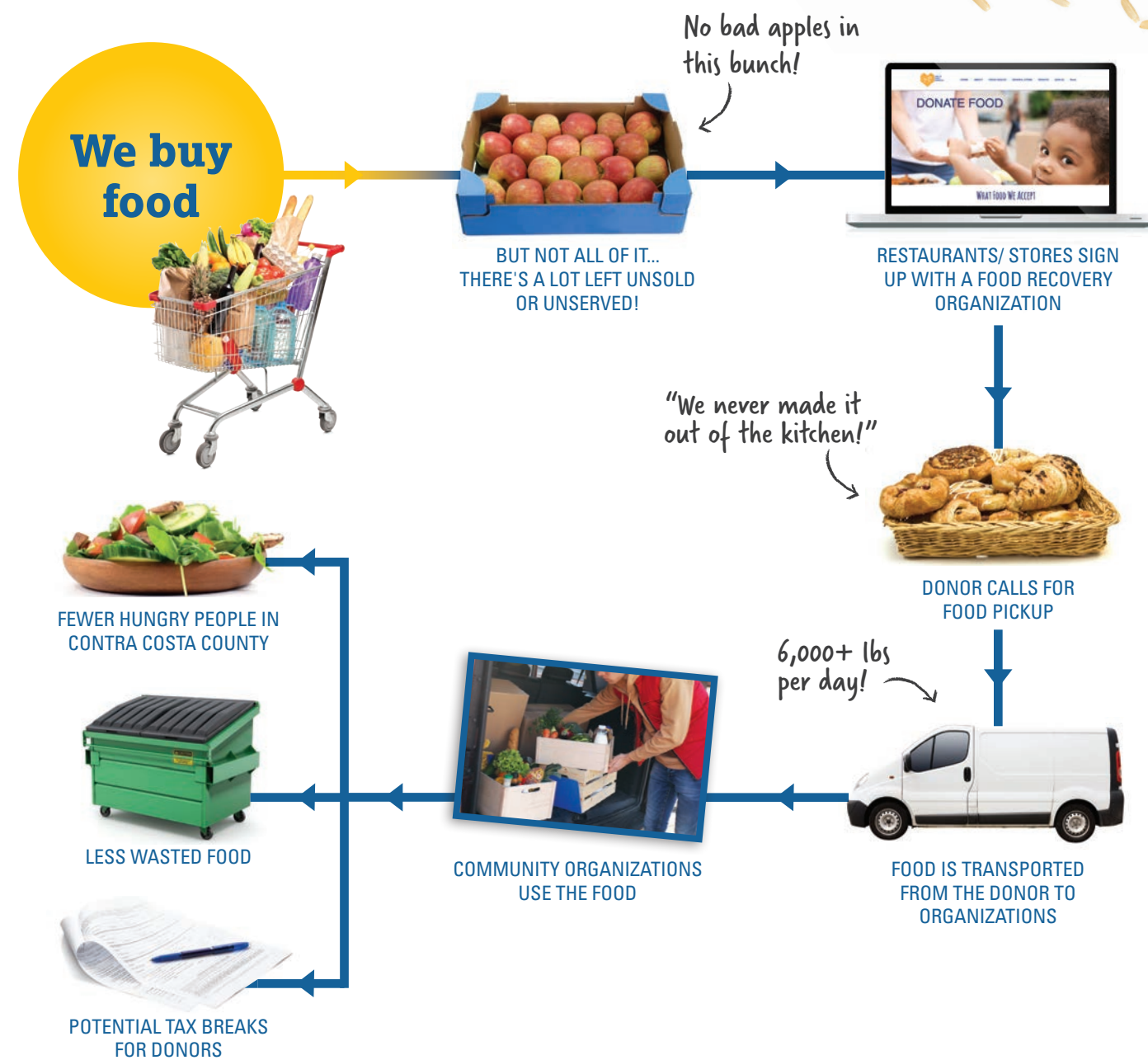
Here's the Scoop —No Poop!

Dear Fido: We know you're just trying to be a good doggy so make sure your person knows that poop bags always go in the black bin! Same with cat poop (*litter is litter*). Animal and human waste is not acceptable in our compost facility. Woof!

But fur real though... litter goes in the trash.



How it works



WHITE PONY EXPRESS TO THE RESCUE!

Soon, supermarkets, restaurants, and food suppliers across Contra Costa will be required to donate surplus edible food to communities that need it most. They will be able to coordinate with local organizations that already exist to manage the logistics!

One organization, White Pony Express, was founded in 2013, driven by a commitment to healthy communities. The dedicated staff at White Pony Express has distributed over 9 million pounds of edible food to hungry families and individuals throughout Contra Costa County.

White Pony Express and other organizations can help local businesses set up and manage their donation programs. Their support means food providers can comply with State regulations while they help feed our communities.



Frugal Foodie

Vanessa P., Lafayette

“Recently our family started keeping track of the things we put in our compost pail. We have a checklist where we mark what goes in—food scraps, soiled paper, leftovers, etc.

Most of the waste is banana peels, coffee grounds, eggshells and things like that, but we discovered that we also throw out a surprising amount of perfectly good food—just because it spoiled before we ate it.

Our mini-audits help us shop smarter. We can save money by buying only what we need and reduce our food waste at the same time!

Editors' Note: We liked Vanessa's tip so much that we turned it into our Kid's Corner activity! Check it out on the next page (the activity is fun for all ages).

Need More Info?



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For tips, resources and other recycling services!

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Printed on paper made from post consumer waste (PCW).



Organics, Recycling and Landfill

925-685-4711

Ask your property manager to contact Republic Services about additional recycling, organic or landfill carts or bins, computer and TV collection, special clean ups or to request motor oil recycling kits, recycling tote bags and kitchen food scrap containers.



HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?

Send your ideas to
Authority@RecycleSmart.org