

What's in Your Backpack?

Connect the dots to help clean out these three items from your backpack! For each one, start at the star (★) and follow the numbers or letters to reveal each item. Which one goes in the **trash**? Which one goes in the **compost**? And which one can you take home and **reuse**?

(1) The juice box goes in the trash, (2) the leftover food goes in the compost and (3) the thermos can be taken home and reused for another yummy lunch!

RecycleSmart
Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority
1850 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 320
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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

EVERYDAY RECYCLING MADE EASY RecycleSmart

APARTMENTS & CONDOS EDITION

WINTER 2020

Bag 'em up and drop 'em off!

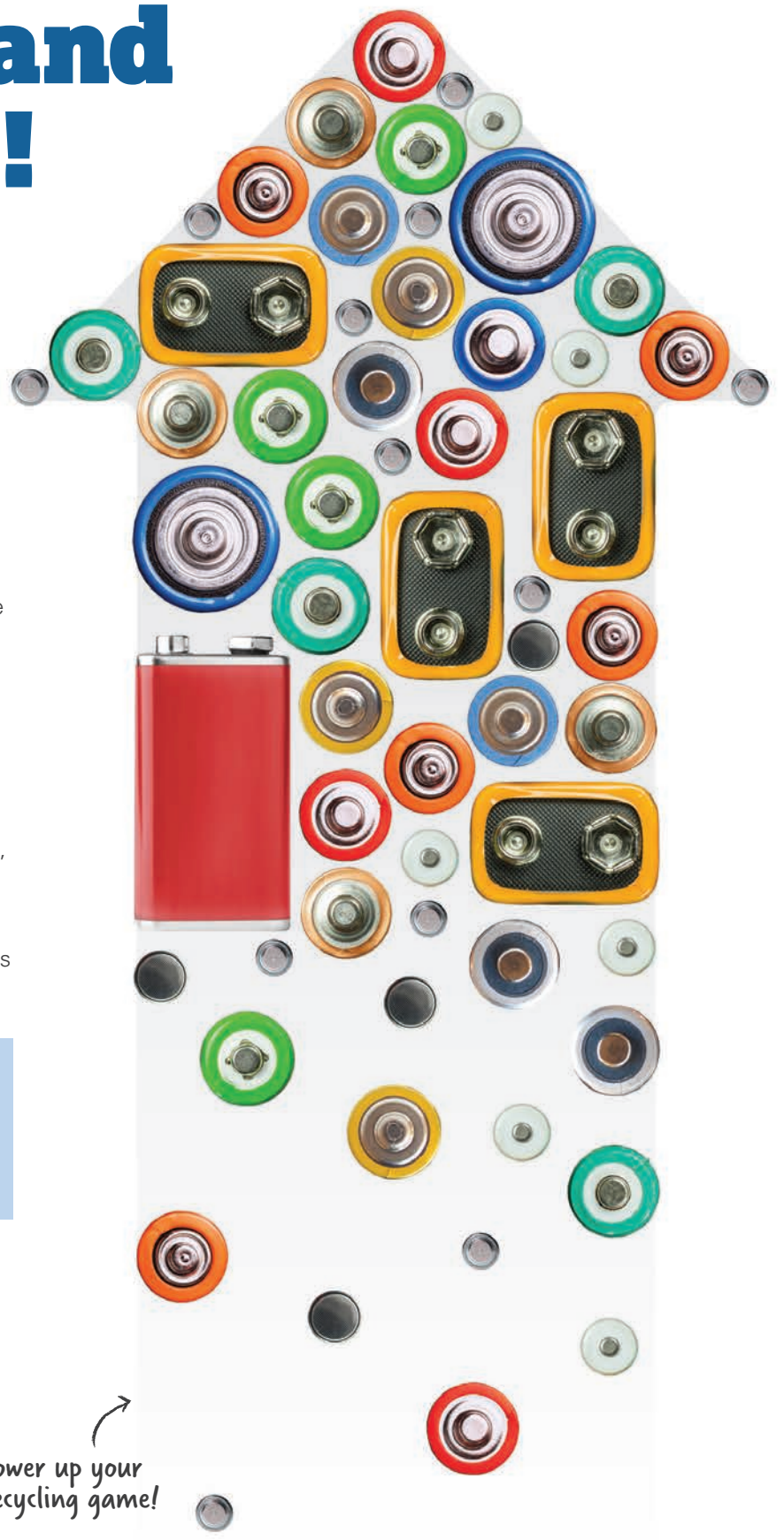
Even "non-working" batteries contain enough energy to potentially start a fire or explode at the recycling facility! So be careful not to put batteries or electronics into your trash or recycling bins.

Use these tips for safe battery recycling in Contra Costa:

- 1 Bag up used-up consumer batteries like AA, AAA, D, C and 9-volt—rechargeable or not—together.
- 2 Look for the word "Lithium" or abbreviation "Li" on the battery, then bag Lithium or Lithium-ion batteries separately—after you put a small piece of clear tape over the positive (+) terminal. That's an extra safety precaution that keeps batteries from shorting out and keeps facilities safe!
- 3 Drop your baggies of batteries at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez, or at Ace Hardware, CVS, Danville Music, Rite Aid and Walgreens locations nearby.
- 4 After you send them on, consider replacing tired batteries with rechargeables to reduce waste in the future.

There's a full list of free drop site addresses at [RecycleSmart.org/HHW](https://www.recycle-smart.org/HHW) or call 1-800-646-1431 for Martinez facility hours!

Did you know? All discarded batteries are considered hazardous waste. They contain heavy metals and toxic or corrosive materials. Proper recycling protects the environment and reclaims those metals for another use. When you bag up your batteries, you put positive energy in your world!

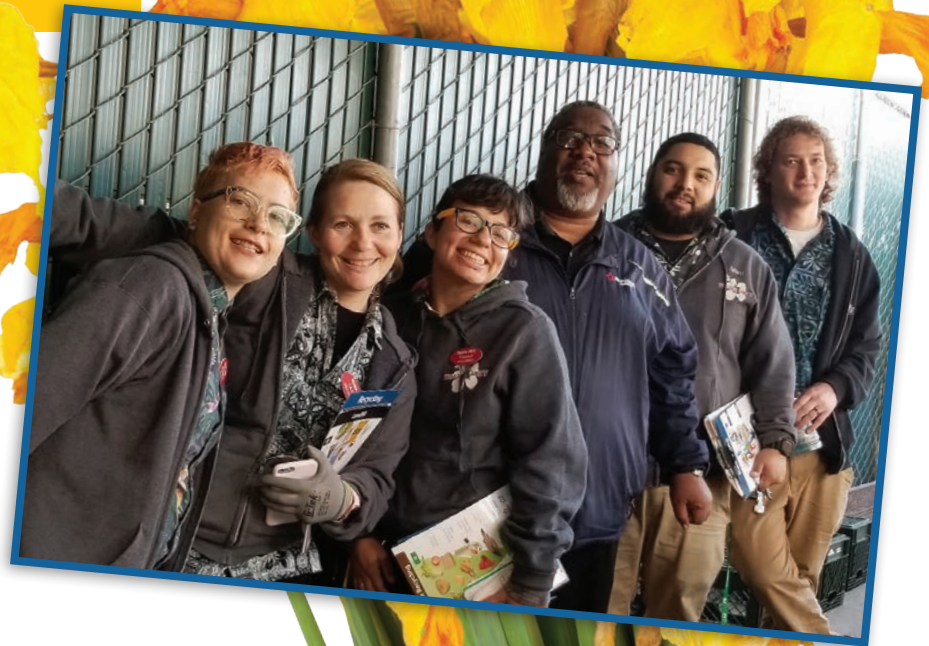


Power up your recycling game!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Handy at-a-glance sorting companion
- Safe battery recycling
- Update: Our schools are crushing it (their recyclables, of course!)

"Ready to rot!"



Republic Services' John Taylor and the Trader Joe's crew

Holy macaroni, Lafayette!

You're recycling 69% of your waste! Lafayette, home of 26,521 rockin' residents, six champion recycling and composting schools, and fifty-three boss businesses* that participate in the Food Recycling Program turning food waste into electricity, has reduced its landfill waste by almost three-quarters!

From wilted flowers to kitchen waste, reclaiming these materials is making a difference in our community.

Folks in Lafayette are rejecting single-use plastics and making sure their La Croix cans are empty and dry before delivering them to the curb. Thanks for choosing to reduce, reuse, and send your compost and clean recyclables to our Recycling Facility. It's a vision to behold.

*You'll find referrals from Amarin Thai to Tutu's Food & Drink and all the letters in between at [RecycleSmart.org/restaurants](https://www.recycle-smart.org/restaurants)



Schools stepping it up!

Schools throughout our service area are picking up the pace with composting and recycling! From 2018-19, **66% of all waste was recycled and composted** thanks to all of the standout school recycling programs.

Shout out to Walnut Creek School District for banning Styrofoam trays, Buena Vista Elementary (shown above) for using compostable wooden sporks, and all the Green Teams working hard out there!

Eighteen schools have already received Wastebuster Awards for reaching (and going above!) our community-wide goal of recycling and composting 75% of all school waste.

Three ways to support your school's recycling and composting program:

1 Start by reducing the amount of waste in your school lunches. Bring your own reusable containers, utensils, and water bottles to cut down on plastic bags and other single-use plastics.

2 When you're done with lunch, leftover food can go into the compost bin. Then pack up reusable containers and utensils for home!

3 Students can get involved with their school's green team. If your school doesn't have one, you can find a teacher sponsor and start one!

To learn more about RecycleSmart school programs visit: RecycleSmart.org/schools

How it works



Batteries die

We have toys!

Batteries die

"Take me with you!"

FERTILIZERS

METAL PRODUCTS

ROAD CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

ZINC + MANGANESE
Leftover material is "black mass" rich in zinc and manganese

FERROUS METALS
Magnets extract low-grade steel

PAPER + PLASTICS
Waste from the battery casing is skimmed off

Don't try this at home!

ALKALINE BATTERIES SHREDDED

BATTERIES SORTED

Need More Info?



Editor, Janna McKay
Janna@RecycleSmart.org

For tips, resources and other recycling services!

www.RecycleSmart.org
925-906-1801
Authority@RecycleSmart.org



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.

"I can be reused or composted. Nom!"

"Reuse me, or else I'm trash."

RECYCLEWHERE?

Looking for a place to drop off empty printer ink cartridges, used clothes or pots and pans? Visit RecycleSmart.org and click on the "RecycleWhere?" button for friendly neighborhood recycling!

Compost

Was it **alive** during my lifetime? Dirty napkins, animal bones, garden waste, carrot tops, and BPI-certified compostable bags go in here.



Recycling

Is it **empty, clean** and **dry**: is it ready to be processed into something new? If there is ANY goop that could spread to other materials, clean the goop or throw the item away.



Trash

Plastic **films, gunky or crinkly** plastics, and "compostable" plastic utensils all go in here. Is it kinda gross but not compostable? Note: takeout containers and ice cream tubs are mostly lined with plastic—they belong here too.



Here's a guide to place by your **trash and recycling area at home!** And if you've got another tricky question, email us at Authority@RecycleSmart.org