



Kid's Corner



1850 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 320
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

A Recycle Scavenger Hunt

There are tons of stuff all around us that can be reused, recycled or composted. You can hunt at home or visit your local park (wear gloves!) and see how quickly you and your friends can collect items on the list.

- 3 items that can be used in a craft project
- 2 plastic items that can be used to hold pens and crayons
- 1 compostable organic item (like an apple core, banana peel, peach pit)
- 1 compostable paper item (used paper towel, paper plate, pizza box)
- 5 aluminum cans to recycle or make into bracelets (see our last Kids Corner online at RecycleSmart.org)
- 10 metal bottle caps to recycle

Maybe the adult in your life might even offer a prize for the most collected!



School Recycling up 700%!

In the 18 years since RecycleSmart began its school outreach programs in the 2000-2001 school year, recycling has increased from just 9% overall to 63%.

"And food waste recycling, which didn't even exist then, is now almost 43% of the total," says Ruth Abbe, who leads the program. Food waste goes to compost or to EBMUD, which uses it to generate electricity.

RecycleSmart offers technical assistance to school sites and staff, classroom presentations, lesson plans, free recycling equipment and tools, tours of the Recycling Center, Wastebuster cash awards up to \$1,500 for schools that significantly reduce waste, and up to \$4,000 in scholarships in partnership with Mt. Diablo Recycling to high school seniors who make significant contributions to reducing waste at their school.

And there's more good news:

- 20 schools of 66 in the RecycleSmart area are already over our goal of 75% diversion!
- 45 schools are over 50% and climbing
- 58 schools are diverting food scraps

Shout out to the top public schools: Buena Vista Elementary at 87% diversion, Indian Valley Elementary at 83%, Springhill Elementary at 81%, and Murwood Elementary and Parkmead Elementary at 80%.

We also service 23 private schools, and this year the program is expanding to preschools and to school-site daycare centers. "We hope to instill a strong recycling mantra in young kids so they stick with it when they're older too," Abbe says.

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EVERYDAY RECYCLING MADE EASY

RecycleSmart

APARTMENTS & CONDOS EDITION FALL 2018

Recycling 2.0: Retake!

It's a new world of recycling and not all recyclables are created equal. "China is rejecting loads of recycling and demanding that recycling materials be much cleaner," says Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery Facility Manager Jim Nejedly.

What can we all do to help? The sorting of recyclables is automated so it helps if we keep recycling clean, dry and free of non-recyclable stuff. "It's inevitable that little bits of plastics get into the paper recycling, for example. But now China wants paper virtually spotless," Nejedly says. That's one reason to toss any food-soiled paper (like napkins and pizza boxes) into your green cart to be composted.

Another way to keep your recyclables clean is to bag your clean plastic bags together rather than putting them loosely in your blue bin. And if it's drippy or goopy, it can't be recycled. Take a quick moment to wipe that extra food residue out of containers and most of all, keep any garbage out of the blue bin!

Blue bins and carts are mixed recycling for glass, metal, plastic, paper and cardboard. If they're overflowing, ask your property manager to contact Republic Services at (925) 685-4711 for a no-cost waste assessment to determine your ideal mix of bins and carts for recycling, organics and trash.



The Discerning Reader

Some mail you want to read (like this newsletter!)—some you don't. Here are some ways to opt out of what you don't.

- Remove yourself from direct mail registries at DirectMail.com
- Remove yourself from specific catalogs at CatalogChoice.org
- Opt-out of automatic phonebook deliveries at YellowPagesOpt-Out.com
- Use an app to opt-out of junk mail and catalogs, such as PaperKarma.com

Whether read or not, toss it in right into the blue bin when you're done with it.



FREE RE-USABLE TOTE!

Make it easy on yourself. Ask your property manager for a free tote to store your recycleables and bring them to your blue recycling bin.

Tiny bit of plastic hiding!

We yearn to be squeaky clean

I feel goopy



IT'S THE BLACK BIN FOR ME!

Diapers, foam trays, garden hoses, treated wood, broken furniture, dishware, candy wrappers, potato chip bags, pet waste, cellophane, plus old clothes and shoes (which you can donate to local charities).





The Hazards of Hazardous Waste

There are some items we all use that need special handling to be properly disposed of.

- **Batteries.** Drop off at one of our local partnering retail stores. For locations, visit RecycleSmart/HHW.
- **Cell phones.** Take them back to your cellular phone provider because they are hazardous and it's illegal to put them in any bin.
- **Compact fluorescent lightbulbs.** These are also illegal to put in the trash. You can check with your local Home Depot, Ace Hardware or Orchard Supply for free drop-off.
- **Motor oil and filters.** Ask your Property Manager to contact Republic

Services and request a used motor oil disposal kit. Place next to the blue recycling bin.

- **E-Waste** like printers, ear buds, TVs, computers and tablets. Your Property Manager can collect e-waste and call Republic Services for an e-waste pickup; 925-685-4711.
- **Household hazardous waste**, such as paint thinner and gasoline containers, aerosol cans, chemicals (bleach, ammonia, pool chlorine) and propane tanks. You can take them to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection facility in Martinez; go to RecycleSmart.org/HHW.

Toss Your Meds?

When you're feeling better—and don't need that medication—you can help the environment feel better too. Just put unused or expired medication in a clear sealable bag (keep liquids in their original container) and drop them in any one of the pharmaceutical collection bins throughout the RecycleSmart area. That'll keep them out of landfill and the wastewater stream, which ends up in the Bay. And you can put the empty plastic bottles in your blue bin (take off the label for privacy). You'll find bin locations at RecycleSmart.org/HHW.



We're speechless!

Need More Info?



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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.

RecycleSmart... by the Numbers



57

NUMBER OF REPUBLIC SERVICES TRUCKS



4,368

TONS RECYCLED IN APARTMENTS AND CONDOS IN 2017



148

TONS OF TRASH WE GENERATE HERE EVERY DAY



31%

AMOUNT OF FOOD AMERICANS WASTE EVERY YEAR



75%

GOAL FOR HOW MUCH OF OUR TRASH DOES NOT GO INTO LANDFILL BY 2020



90,000

-SEAT FOOTBALL STADIUM TO HOLD OUR DAILY FOOD WASTE



7

TREES USED PER PERSON FOR PAPER AND WOOD IN U.S. EVERY YEAR



127

TONS OF RECYCLING IN RECYCLESMART AREA EVERY DAY



197

TONS OF COMPOST EVERY DAY



1996

YEAR RECYCLESMART OPERATIONS STARTED



80%

PERCENTAGE OF ALUMINUM CANS RECYCLED IN CALIFORNIA



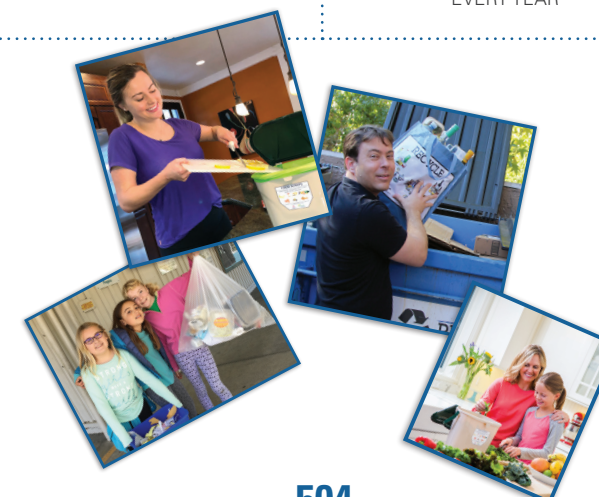
\$35,500

AWARDED IN RECYCLESMART SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE 2015



2.5 Million

PLASTIC BOTTLES AMERICANS USE EVERY HOUR



504

APARTMENTS AND CONDOS IN RECYCLESMART AREA



Micro-Composting!

Tiny brilliant idea

From John D. in Danville

I don't have any room for outdoor composting, but I do have some herbs and flowers. I've found a way to keep my plants hearty without spending money on fertilizers and soil amendments. I created a micro-composter that sits on my back porch. It's a cool way to show my kids how organics decompose into compost, on a really small scale.

Here's how I made it:

- 1 Cut the top off of a clean liter soda bottle and poke some air holes in it.
- 2 Add damp but not soaked soil at the bottom.
- 3 Add a handful of food scraps (veggies, coffee/tea, bread, egg shells, but no meat or dairy).
- 4 Repeat until the bottle is full, with the top layer soil.
- 5 Spray the soil and bottle with water so that the environment is damp.
- 6 Place in a sunny spot, spray when the soil goes dry, and shake occasionally.
- 7 Watch for six to eight weeks while your food scraps slowly decompose into compost.
- 8 Add your rich, compost soil to plants and flowers.
- 9 Rinse and repeat.

My kids found it fascinating and both my plants and wallet are very happy!



HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?

Send your ideas to
Authority@RecycleSmart.org