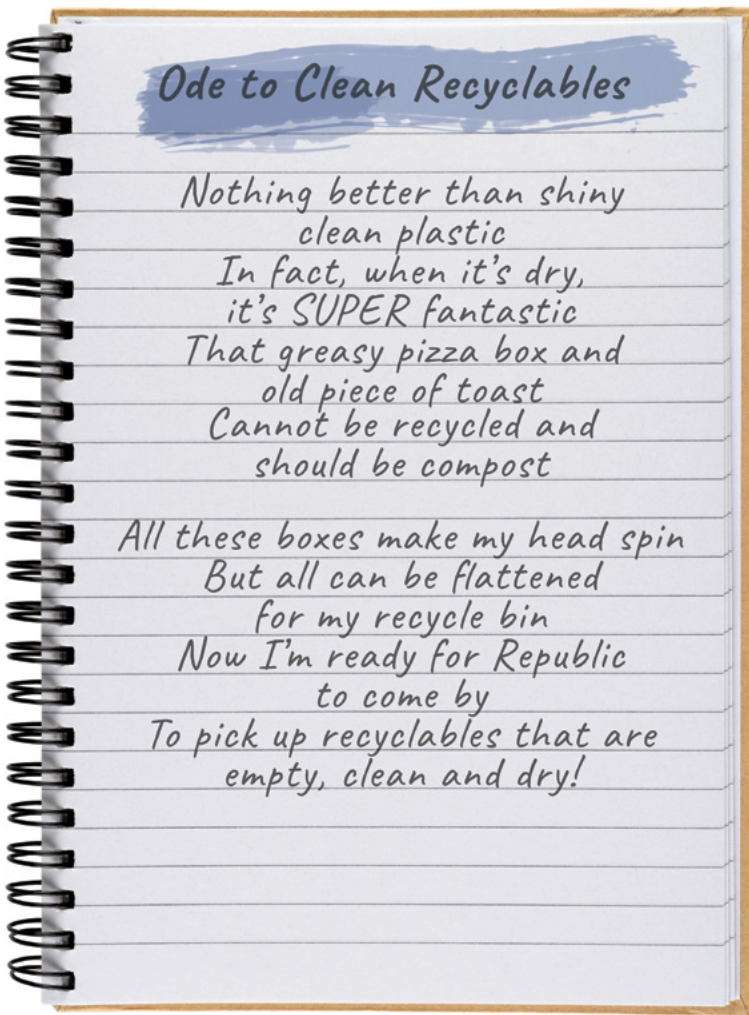


Poetry Contest

Hey kids—grab a pen and paper!

We're looking for a new way to help remind our community to clean their recyclables!

Need some inspiration? Here's a poem to get you started:



Ode to Clean Recyclables

*Nothing better than shiny
clean plastic
In fact, when it's dry,
it's SUPER fantastic
That greasy pizza box and
old piece of toast
Cannot be recycled and
should be compost*

*All these boxes make my head spin
But all can be flattened
for my recycle bin
Now I'm ready for Republic
to come by
To pick up recyclables that are
empty, clean and dry!*

Please ask an adult to send your poetry (or song!) to Authority@RecycleSmart.org with your name, age and city.

We'll select one winner to receive a prize and be featured in the next issue of RecycleSmart!



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 2021

Living out of the box(es)

By 2024, over 90% of all Americans will have ordered something online. All that online shopping means lots more packaging—cardboard boxes, bubble wrap, hard plastic, and other materials to make sure your necessities arrive in good shape.

Recycling cardboard is easy: Just break down the box, then place flat, dry cardboard in your blue recycling bin (making sure the lid is closed keeps items from flying away). Drivers can't accept more than what fits in the bin, so save any overflow for your next collection day, or contact your building manager to request an extra pickup.

While cardboard is one of the original recyclable materials, it's still smart to reduce as much packaging as you can—it helps prevent clutter in your home and shrinks your carbon footprint. One idea? If you are ordering multiple items, choose the option to combine your orders in one box instead of having them shipped separately.

If you have too many boxes, try offering them to a neighbor or friend who's moving. You can post a notice on a neighborhood website or bulletin board! Tell us your tips at Authority@RecycleSmart.org, too!



Special delivery—cardboard!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Hot stats from 2020
- Recycling shampoo bottles
- Under a mountain of stuff? We have the answers!

It's time to boast, these teens are the most!



Pictured above (left to right): Club volunteers Dalai Vo, Jayden Thai, Devon Bradley, Jonas Dao, and Sheng Shu

HEART Orinda

What to do when school is online but your club still wants to make a difference?

Devon Bradley and Miramonte High's Environmental Solutions Club formed Project HEART, which is donating 100% compostable (uncoated) paper-based takeout containers to participating Orinda restaurants. With COVID impacting businesses every day, Devin and Miramonte High's Environmental Solutions Club are offering support to

the restaurants in town. Unfortunately, compostable materials can cost more than landfill-doomed materials like plastic and polystyrene.

"Originally, the club aimed to ban plastic takeout materials through city council, but plans had to change when COVID-19 hit."

We hear you, Devon! You can support the project and keep up to date with their work at HEARTorinda.org

We're All In

Beginning January 1, 2022, a new law requires Californians to keep organics out of the landfill cart and participate in composting programs. For more info, visit RecycleSmart.org/1383



BULK IS BACK!

If you're shopping locally, the site ZeroWasteCalifornia.org has tips for buying bulk during COVID. You can even take your own bags to win a personal "reduce and reuse" award.



Big numbers from 2020:

Last year, RecycleSmart residents stepped up their game!

We picked up

32,543
tons of recycling

64,812
tons of compost

47,964
tons of trash

230

tons of leftover Christmas trees composted



Starting daily at 3 a.m., Republic's dispatchers, mechanics, and staff keep up:

75
trucks

75
routes



90
drivers

300
tons more residential material per week
(compared to pre-pandemic times)!

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.

To get your own RecycleSmart mask, email your address to Authority@RecycleSmart.org!



Drop 'em like they're toxic!



FOUND NEW LIGHT?
You can drop all types of light bulbs at Central San!

CHANGING YOUR OIL AT HOME?
The County recycling hotline at 800-750-4096 will give you the closest drop-off location.



RECYCLING

SAFELY DROP IT AT CENTRAL SAN!
Deliver items Monday – Saturday, 7 am – 2 pm
CentralSan.org/HHW



Check RecycleSmart.org/HHW for more drop spots!

GOING RECHARGEABLE?
Dead batteries get recycled when you drop them off. Tape the ends of lithium-ion batteries for safety, please!



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Where does it go?

RECYCLEWHERE?



EVERYTHING ELSE!
Our *RecycleWhere?* tool will make sure your items find the next right home.
RecycleSmart.org



"Ready for my new home!"

EXTRA PICKUPS



IS IT JUST TOO MUCH?
Building managers can schedule extra pickups or an e-waste pickup for a fee.



SHARPS, LIQUIDS, AND MORE

So many other things require special handling- items like needles and medical products, antifreeze and other chemicals, or electronics. But we've got you—bring your questions to RecycleSmart.org/HHW and we'll show you the way.



Renew Your Shampoo

Question:
I've switched to shampoo and conditioner bars—what's the right way to recycle my empty bottles?

—Gary P, Moraga

Answer:

Thanks for asking! To recycle your goopy bottles, please give them a rinse (this is a good way to get a few extra uses out of your products, too!), then close them up and put them in the blue bin.

We can take shampoo, soap, body wash, and other hard plastic bottles. We'll even take (empty) prescription bottles; just take the labels off for privacy.

If you're on a zero-waste journey, you might check out toothpaste tablets! Tubes like the ones containing face wash, sunscreen, lotions and toothpaste can't be recycled.



"Lucky me, I'm plastic free!"



HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?
Send your ideas to Authority@RecycleSmart.org