# THE COMMERCIAL CONNECTION

Winter 2014

KEEPING US CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

Recology.
San Benito County

**WASTE ZERO** 

Recology of San Benito County provides garbage and recycling service to residents, businesses, and multi-family buildings in Hollister, San Juan Bautista, and the surrounding unincorporated areas of San Benito County.

Are You Recycling at Home and at Work?

Most businesses in Hollister, San Juan Bautista, and unincorporated areas of San Benito County are recycling – is yours? Programs may be as simple as an employee self-hauling cardboard boxes and bringing home cans and bottles for some extra cash, or using blue recycling carts and a white dumpster from Recology. Every effort towards recycling can make a difference!

If your workplace is not recycling like you think it should, talk to your manager and have him or her contact Recology for assistance. Julie Alter is available for on-site meetings or a phone call; please contact her at 831-636-7500.





#### Tips on Reducing Waste at Work

If you would like tips on reducing waste at your workplace, go to www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ReduceWaste/Business/. This website has helpful information you can use to implement your business recycling program and reduce overall waste.

In the left column, click on "Fact Sheets and Case Studies" for industry-specific ideas for different kinds of businesses. Also, check the "Business Waste Reduction Resource Index," where you can download colorful posters that promote printing on both sides of paper, reusing office supplies, and other sustainable practices.

#### Mission Ranches Recycles

In 2012, Recology visited Mission Ranches in San Juan Bautista and discovered they weren't recycling everything they could. They were recycling metal and wood when possible, but not much of anything else. Danny Reyes, Seed Division Supervisor, didn't realize everything that could be recycled until Julie Alter looked through his dumpster and showed him what could be diverted from the landfill. They agreed to have a fiber dumpster and blue carts delivered to capture their recyclables.

Danny called upon Julie again in 2013, when Mission Ranches opened up a new office at their warehouse in Hollister. He had seen how Recology could help divert material from their dumpster at their San Juan Bautista location and wanted to do the same in Hollister.

When Danny was asked if he thought recycling was important, he said "My mom always thought recycling was important, and that rubbed off on me. It makes me feel good that we are recycling and not wasting resources."



Thank you Mission Ranches for participating in our efforts to promote recycling and reduce waste in the workplace!

# Purchasing Products Made of Recycled Materials

Does your business have a policy to purchase supplies made of recycled material? Buying recycled-content products reduces waste going to landfills, reduces manufacturing waste and pollution, frequently reduces energy consumption and creates jobs. Most importantly, buying recycled-content products ensures that the materials collected in recycling programs will be used again in the manufacture of new products.

Check with your current office supply company to see which recycled products they carry. If they don't have a great selection, search on the Internet for "recycled office supplies" and see what you can find.

When looking for items to purchase, first search for products with "post consumer" recycled content. This means the item is made from material (like office paper) that was collected through a recycling program, baled, sold and recycled into a new product—like a pad of writing paper. If you can't find the "post consumer" information on the product, then look

for "recycled content" information. These products are made from materials that would otherwise have been discarded— like odds and ends from the manufacturing process.

### These are just a few examples of recycled-content products:

- Trash bags
- Tissue products
- Binders
- Business cards
- Computer paper
- Printing & writing paper
- Pens and pencils
- Toner cartridges
- Envelopes
- Calendars
- Labels
- Packaging



# Become a Certified Green Business



The Green Business Program can teach you and your employees how to reduce waste, increase energy efficiency, use less toxic products to minimize health concerns, AND increase profits by going green. Visit the Green Business web site for more information and to complete an online application at www.greenbusinessca.org.

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Need more information?
Contact us! (831) 636-7500
We value your opinion, questions, or comments.
www.recologysanbenitocounty.com

Other Important Resources

San Benito County Integrated Waste Management Regional Agency (831) 636-4110 Your business may be eligible to receive FREE recycling containers like the one pictured here for inside your office building. Contact the County of San Benito Integrated Waste Management Regional Agency at 831-636-4110 to find out how.