



Contact Us:
Rohnert Park Disposal
(707) 586-2283
New!
Chat Live Now! Online Chat at:
unicycler.com

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 7am-6pm
Saturday - Sunday 7am-3pm
 /NorthBayUnicycler

Upcoming Events:

April 29th - May 3rd:
Rohnert Park Spring Curbside Clean-up
May 12th - 19th:

AMGEN

Tour of California
June 15th:


FESTA ITALIANA SONOMA
JUNE 15, 2013

July 25th - Aug. 11th:


SONOMA COUNTY FAIR
Home Spun Fun!
JULY 25 - AUGUST 11, 2013
Closed Mondays

In This Issue

Guidelines, Overloads and BIPs.....	2
Our Green Family Members.....	2
Curbside Cleanout Details.....	2
Save Money on Can Size.....	2
Green Waste Requirements.....	2
Ask the Unicycler.....	3
Construction Services.....	3
Curbside Recycle Guidelines.....	3
How to Recycle Oil.....	3
Whole Foods Market's Efforts to Recycle.....	4
Toxic Disposal Guide.....	4

Organic Materials and Greenhouse Gas Levels Improving in Sonoma County

Every year Sonoma County discards about 95,000 tons of organic material that is buried in the landfill. Organic waste in the landfill is especially problematic. When it is buried and deprived of oxygen, it decomposes and generates methane, a dangerous greenhouse gas that is about 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. In fact, landfills are the number one source of human-caused methane in the United States.

Sonoma County is a national climate protection leader that incubates model programs for saving money and saving the planet. Sonoma County recognizes that climate change is a slow-moving catastrophe that, unchecked, threatens future generations. Climate change is caused by a man made blanket of greenhouse gas that surrounds the earth and traps in increasing amounts of heat. By implementing climate solutions we create opportunities that move us toward sustainability. Solutions developed here inspire other communities.

Sonoma County is a leader in recycling efforts. More than two-thirds of our current waste stream is kept out of the landfill. But that still leaves a third of our waste going into the dump. Within the amount of waste still being landfilled, it is estimated that about 30% is organic material that could be composted. Since 2009 the Climate Protection Campaign has worked hard along with government and business representatives to find the best ways to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill in order to decrease greenhouse gas emission.

One easy action for people to take is to discard vegetative food scraps in the green can with yard trimmings. This material is turned into soil amendments that are used on farms and landscapes in Sonoma County, creating local jobs and replenishing the soil. Discarding food waste in the green can also extends the life of our landfill. Diverting organic material from the landfill and returning the nutrients and organic matter back to our land is an important part of creating a more sustainable community. One of the quickest and cheapest ways to reduce our community's greenhouse gas emissions and improve the health of our soil is to get these compostable organics out of landfills through composting.

"A major benefit of putting food waste in the green can is reducing greenhouse gas," according to Ann Hancock of the Climate Protection Campaign. "We give hope to future generations and advance Sonoma County's stature as a climate protection leader. Working together we can make big, positive change happen."



Ann Hancock - Climate Protection Campaign



The Ratto Group provides expanded services to help keep compostable waste out of the landfill and therefore reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in our county. Through residential and commercial composting programs, Sonoma County continues to decrease the amount of organic material going to the landfill. In addition to vegetative food waste going into the green yard waste can at residential homes, the Ratto Group has also been expanding the number of businesses participating in the commercial food scrap program. About 115 business locations in Sonoma County currently participate in the program, with Mary's Pizza Shack being the first to lead the way. The food scraps were previously being taken to a worm farm, but now go to various Bay Area composting facilities to break down into nutrient rich compost.

For more information about climate protection, please visit www.climateprotection.org. For more information about organics in the green can and commercial food scrap composting, visit www.unicycler.com.

Rohnert Park Recycling News

Guidelines & Reminders from Customer Service

To help us provide the best service to you, please observe the following:



- Place carts at the road edge the night prior to your service day.
 - Please leave 3 feet between garbage, recycling & yard waste carts.
 - Place garbage loosely in your cart. Carts that are overstuffed or have material jammed into them may not empty completely.
 - Please remove your containers from the road edge as soon after they have been serviced as is practical.
- Be sure all items are contained inside your carts. Carts that have items sticking out of them or have material piled on top may not be emptied or may receive additional charges.
 - You may opt to set out recycle and yard waste carts only when full if you choose.

For everyone's safety and convenience, we request that you pay special attention to the following:

- Do not place carts within three feet of vehicles, mailboxes, fire hydrants, other obstacles or personal property.
- Collection vehicles need 14' overhead clearance. Carts should not be placed in an area with overhangs, trees or other obstacles.
- Please park your car in your driveway the night before your collection day whenever possible. There may be a delay in collection of blocked carts.
- If you have any questions, please call or check out our new on-line chat option at unicycler.com.

Extra Trash

- If you have an overloaded garbage cart or extra bags of garbage piled on top of, or alongside your cart, you may receive an automatic charge for each extra bag or can of garbage. Carts are considered overloaded if the lid will not close.
- If you have extra garbage, call our office at 586-2283 by 2:30 pm the day before your regular collection day to order extra service and avoid confusion when you receive your bill. Do not overstuff your carts as they may not empty completely.

Bulky Item Pickups

The Ratto Group - *A family of companies* local hauler (Rohnert Park Disposal) offers Bulky Item Pick up for items that are too large for your cart.

Items such as mattresses, couches, and large furniture items can be picked up for a fee for single-family residential customers. Call Rohnert Park Disposal at 586-2283 to schedule a pick up.

We make any attempt to reduce, reuse and recycle your bulky items and keep them out of the landfill. Help us out by trying to donate your item before disposing of it.

Please Remember:

- We are unable to pick up hazardous waste. Call the HHW hotline at 795-2025 or visit unicycler.com for more information.
- Please direct reusable items to thrift or second hand stores.

*Certain items have pick-up fees. Please call or chat online at unicycler.com for details.



Our "Green Family" - Partners in Food Waste Recycling

Our "Green Family" consists of businesses in our community who currently take advantage of our Food Waste Recycling program. Please support and thank them for making every effort to reduce our local footprint.



Want to join our "Green Family"?
Email now to GreenFamily@unicycler.com

Rohnert Park Curbside Cleanup April 29 - May 3, 2013

Rohnert Park residents may place extra garbage (contained in bags or boxes) at the curb for collection on their regular collection day during this week. Only Rohnert Park residential customers and multi-family complexes may participate in the cleanup. Multifamily complexes must request cleanup service by scheduling service no later than Monday April 22nd. Businesses and property managers may not participate. Call Rohnert Park Disposal at 586-2283 to schedule and for full descriptions of what is acceptable to be removed. Residents are limited to two cubic yards of material at the curb--equivalent of 14 bags, boxes or bins or one bulky item plus seven bags or boxes or 2 bulky items.

Prohibited Items:

The following items are not accepted. They will be tagged and left at the curb.

- Dirt, rocks, concrete, tires, stumps.
- Pressure treated or chemically treated wood/lumber.
- Lawnmowers, propane tanks, batteries
- Hazardous waste such as paint, motor oil, chemicals, cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, & thinners

Bulky Items:

Large furniture requires an appointment. There is a \$20 charge for mattresses (box springs included). Payment is due at time of pickup. Call Rohnert Park Disposal at 586-2283 before Monday, April 22, 2013 for an appointment.

Yard Waste:

Recycle yardwaste in your green organics cart. It can also be taken to the Central Landfill and composted for a fee. Yardwaste should not be discarded in the garbage.

E-Waste Items:

Household appliances can be picked up free of charge every Thursday. Call 707-586-2283 to make an appointment. *Fee is applied for Freon and/or microwave disposal. E-waste items include:

- Televisions & monitors (tube, plasma, LCD or projection)
- VCR/DVD players, printers, household appliances (with a power cord)*
- Scrap metal, bicycles, BBQs
- Refrigerators, A/C units, etc.*



Save Yourself Some Money!

If you are generating less waste, you can reward yourself with a smaller garbage bill by exchanging your current cart for a smaller size.

We offer four levels of service. Super recyclers or small families may be able to reduce their waste and subscribe to the 20 gallon service.

If you would like to change your service level, please contact our office for details and rates.

Yard Waste Guidelines

- Place all grass cuttings, leaves & weeds, tree & shrubbery trimmings, berry bushes and other yard & garden waste inside your green rolling cart, also referred to as your yard waste cart. Branches under 4 inches in diameter and less than 2 feet long are accepted.
- Also accepted in the yard waste carts are food scraps such as fruits and vegetables (including pits and nuts), coffee grounds with filters, tea bags, kitchen prep scraps, bread, grains, pasta, baked goods, eggs, eggshells and non-coated paper products such as paper plates and napkins. **No meat, bones, dairy or seafood products in the yardwaste can.**
- Place your yard waste cart at the curb allowing at least three feet of space between containers.
- All green waste must be in the container. Loose material will not be collected.
- Do not put yard waste in plastic bags.
- Please put your garbage in the correct can. Contamination can lead to higher costs and higher prices in garbage service.

Keep Your Green Clean!

Keep your cart clean by wrapping your food scraps in a brown paper bag or newspaper. The following materials are banned from your yard waste cart.

- garbage • sod or dirt • rock • gravel or concrete • lumber • playground bark • plastic bags • nursery pots or plastic • pet waste • palm fronds • processed or treated wood products • bamboo • cups, packaging & straws • liquid waste & ice • plastics • cardboard • take-out containers • compostable plastics (even bio-bags) • synthetic corks • waxed cardboard • poison oak • Sudden Oak Death infested material • BBQ ashes • tree stumps • meat & bones • seafood & shells • cheese • dairy products

Ask the Unicycler

Dear Unicycler:

When I recycle a bottle or jar with a screw-top lid, do I leave the lid on or off?

Signed,

Lid Lamerter

Dear Lid Lamerter:

Great question! Whenever you recycle an item with a screw-top lid, just leave the lid screwed on and place the whole container in the recycling. Whether it's a plastic beverage bottle or a glass container with a lid, it's perfectly fine (actually preferred) to keep the lid screwed on.

If for some reason you have only the lid, it gets a bit trickier. If the lid by itself is less than 4" in diameter, then it is too small to go in the recycling and needs to be thrown away in the garbage. When lids or caps are that small, they often get lost and fall through the cracks of our sorting system. If the lid or cap is larger than 4" in diameter then it is fine to go in the recycling by itself.

Have a recycling or environmental question? Ask us at greenteam@unicycler.com. Or, like us on Facebook and post your questions there.



Unicycler Offering Full Construction Services Plus an 82% Diversion Rate!

The Unicycler has been busy as of late. We are proud to announce that the Ratto Group is now offering full construction services for all of your disposal needs. By "Construction Services" we mean just about everything a general contractor would need to get a building project going. This also includes disposal of the construction and demolition materials which we are diverting at a rate over 82% from the landfill. Exchanges of debris boxes can even be done same day. We now offer a full array of the following:



Give us a call at 707-585-5222 or visit us at www.unicycler.com for more information on what we can do to help out your jobsite.

Single-Stream Recycling Guide

Place all recycling together inside the blue cart

Mixed Paper and Cardboard

Flatten or cut boxes to fit loosely inside cart. Place shredded paper in clear plastic or paper bag.

Yes!

- White & Colored Paper
- Office Paper & Junk Mail
- Newspaper
- Magazines & Catalogs
- Cereal & Shoe Boxes
- Corrugated Cardboard

No!

- Napkins, Towels, Tissues
- Food-Contaminated Paper
- Photographs or Blueprint Paper
- Waxed Cardboard or Paper



Milk Cartons and Juice/Rice/Soy Boxes

Remove straws. Empty before recycling.

Yes!

- Milk Cartons
- Drink Boxes

No!

- Plastic-Lined Cartons
- Straws or Pop Tops



Glass Bottles & Jars

Empty before recycling. Leave caps screwed on.

Yes!

- Clear & Colored Glass
- Food & Beverage Jars

No!

- Window or Mirror Glass
- Ceramic, Dishes or Stemware
- Loose Caps less than 4"



Plastic Containers

Wash & squash. Empty before recycling. Leave caps screwed on.

Yes!

- Plastic Containers
- Milk & Water Jugs
- Soda & Juice Bottles
- Yogurt & Deli Tubs
- Consolidated Plastic Bags
- Rigid Plastics

No!

- Loose Caps less than 4"
- Styrofoam



Metal Cans

Wash & squash, leave labels on. Empty before recycling.

Yes!

- Aluminum Cans
- Steel & Tin Cans
- Bimetal Cans
- Empty Paint/ Aerosol Cans

No!

- Plastic Caps
- Styrofoam
- Loose Caps less than 4"



Why is it Important to Recycle Used Motor Oil and Oil Filters?

- Used oil can contain contaminants such as lead, magnesium, copper, zinc, chromium, arsenic, cadmium and chlorinated compounds.
- Don't pour used motor oil down the drain or on the ground. One gallon of used motor oil can pollute one million gallons of drinking water.
- Used motor oil represents more than 40 percent of the oil pollution in our country's waterways.
- Used oil is easy to recycle. It can be re-refined into usable motor oil.

- Recycle your used oil filter. Even after draining, used oil filters contain about 10 ounces of used oil, as well as one pound of reusable steel.
- All the used oil filters sold annually in California could be recycled into 67 million pounds of steel, enough to build three large football stadiums!

Here in Sonoma County we recycle 3,800 gallons of oil per year. Recycling used oil and filters reduces our dependence on foreign oil, saves valuable resources, protects the health of our families, and is the only legal way to dispose of them! You haven't finished changing your oil until you've taken this last important step. There are two convenient options for recycling used oil and filters in Sonoma County:

Curbside recycling service for used motor oil and filters!

Call Customer Service at 586-2283 or 800-243-0291 to request a special container and zip-lock filter bag. Then call our office to request a pickup. Place oil and filter at the curb next to (not in) your recycling cart for pickup on your regular collection day. The driver will leave a replacement container when your full one is collected.

Drop-off Recycling Locations!

There are many locations in Sonoma County that accept motor oil for recycling. Most also take filters. To find a list of locations nearest you, visit http://recyclenow.org/toxics/motor_oil_dropoff.asp. Or check your Sonoma County Recycling Guide in the AT&T Phone Book. Find it behind the tab under Recycling in the AT&T Yellow Pages.



Chat Live Now!

New! No need to spend your time on the phone. Simply go to unicycler.com during business hours and click on the "Chat Now" option on the right side. A Customer Service Agent will be able to handle whatever situation you may have. Or, if it's past business hours, click on "Leave a message" and we'll get back to you within 24 hours.

