



Winter 2014
Happy Holidays

THE CONNECTION

Keeping Us Connected To The Communities We Serve



Helpful Holiday Information

Give Gifts Without Waste!

From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, household waste increases by more than 25%. Food waste, shopping bags, packaging, wrapping paper, bows and ribbons add up to an additional one million tons a week to our landfills. (Source: EPA)

Before you buy another gift, think about how that gift affects people and how it affects the environment. Environmental gift giving is not a trend, but a lifestyle change. It takes a little effort, but goes a long way. Incorporate, not only green giving, but green living into your daily life and live a happier life on a healthier earth.

Here are some specific gift ideas that generate less waste:

Go green, literally

Don't just give flowers that will wilt in a week. Give long lasting indoor or outdoor plants. Consider native plants to your region which require less water. Indoor plants are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also clean and purify indoor air of pollutants from cleaning products, smoke, and pollution trapped inside from outdoor air pollution.



Give a donation

For the person that has "everything", consider making a donation in their name to their favorite non-profit organization.

Bake, sew, create or cook

- Bake cookies or bread
- Knit (or sew) a sweater, scarf or blanket
- Create a scrapbook
- Make jam or salsa and package with a personalized label

Christmas Tree Recycling

There are two ways residents can recycle Christmas trees at the curb:

Local Boy Scout Troops 436 and 428 will be collecting and recycling Christmas trees again in the Cities of Hollister, San Juan Bautista, and the surrounding neighborhoods on the following dates:

- Sunday, December 28th
- Saturday, January 3rd
- Sunday, January 4th



Trees need to be at the curb by 9am on those dates. Boy Scouts do not require trees to be cut. A donation of \$8 is appreciated and supports local Boy Scout activities and the Gerry Rawn Endowment Fund. For more information, call (831) 637-8022.

Recology San Benito County can also pick up your Christmas tree for recycling on your garbage and recycling collection days between January 2nd and January 23rd.

Before setting your tree at the curb for recycling by Recology you need to do the following:

- **CUT TREES into three-feet by three-feet sections**
- **Remove all decorations, tinsel and stands**
- **Flocked trees are acceptable**

Holiday Collection Schedule

DECEMBER 2014 & JANUARY 2015					
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
22 Normal Service	23 Normal Service	24 Normal Service	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Service for Thursday Customers	27 Service for Friday Customers
29 Normal Service	30 Normal Service	31 Normal Service	1 Happy New Year!	2 Service for Thursday Customers	3 Service for Friday Customers

Remember the Three "Rs" During the Holidays

- Reduce** Make the gift wrap part of the gift. For example: wrap kitchen items inside a pretty kitchen towel.
- Reuse** Reuse gift bags, wrap and bows you have been saving from gifts you have received.
- Recycle** Recycle your wrapping paper! (bows are reusable, not recyclable)

Spanish Translation Para recibir información en Español llame a este número (831) 636-7500.

Recycle your Batteries

According to the EPA, about 40% of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run. You can recycle your batteries at home.



You can put regular household batteries (AAA-D, 9V, button cell, rechargeable) in a clear, zippered bag and set them on top of your blue recycling cart.

It is illegal to throw batteries in the trash.

Convenient Sharps & Pharmaceutical Disposal Locations

Bring expired or unused medications and used syringes to these locations:

ANSR Pharmacy

581 McCray St., Hollister
Call for hours: (831) 630-3100

Aromas Water District

387 Blohm Avenue, Aromas
Call For Hours: (831) 726-3155

City of Hollister Community Center

300 West St., Hollister
Call for hours (831) 636-4390

Walgreens

600 Tres Pinos Road, Hollister
Call for hours: (831) 638-1024

Used needles, syringes and lancets must be in approved Sharps container as shown above (available free with exchange of old Sharps container). Call (831) 636-4110 for more information.

No controlled substances can be accepted at this time. Be sure to "black out" your name on the prescription label and keep in original container.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

John Smith Road Landfill
2650 John Smith Road, Hollister
Every third Saturday of each month
Hours: 9am-12pm
(831) 636-4110

Paicines Store

12261 Airline Hwy, Paicines
Call for hours (831) 628-3293



Home Composting and Reducing Waste, While Saving Water

January 2015 will bring two new laws that pertain to organics (food and yard waste). AB 1826 pertains to a phasing in of organics collection for commercial businesses and SB 605 will propose a strategy to ban organics to landfills in 2016. To get ready for these new mandates, we are encouraging everyone to start backyard composting. There are many ways you can reduce food waste at home, such as better meal planning, using a shopping list and preparing only the amount of food you expect to eat at each meal-you save money and resources. When you do have food scraps left over, we suggest you set up a compost bin (or pile) in your backyard and add your yard waste as well. Using compost in your yard reduces the need for water, fertilizers and pesticides and it revives your soil.



If you want to learn how to compost at home, sign up for a Compost Class offered free by the San Benito

County Integrated Waste Management Regional Agency. Classes will be advertised in the Spring in the Freelance newspaper or call (831) 636-4110. At the end of each class, you are given a free compost bin. If you already know how to compost but need a bin, call Recology San Benito at (831) 636-7500 and you can purchase one for \$50.

Bulky Item Drop-Off Events

There are four opportunities each year for residents (not businesses) to drop off specific items at the John Smith Road Landfill for FREE.

The last 2014 dates are
December 27th & 28th, 9am to 3pm

The **2015** drop-off event dates are Saturdays and Sundays, 9am to 3pm, on these dates:

- March 28 & 29
- June 27 & 28
- September 26 & 27
- December 26 & 27



Drop-off event dates are subject to change, call (831) 637-4515 to confirm.

The following is a partial list of items you can bring (limit two bulky items per event):

- Furniture, appliances, mattresses, tires
- Concrete, asphalt, green waste, unpainted wood (one cubic yard equals one bulky item)

For more information about what is acceptable, please call the County Integrated Waste Management Department at (831) 636-4110.



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Need more information?
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We value your opinion, questions, or comments.
www.recologysanbenitocounty.com

Another Important Resource
San Benito County Integrated
Waste Management Regional Agency
(831) 636-4110