



Summer 2014

THE CONNECTION

Keeping Us Connected To The Communities We Serve



Have you ever asked yourself "where does it all go?"

After you put your garbage in the grey garbage cart and your recyclables in the blue cart, and your yard waste in the green cart, and it leaves your house - what happens to it?

Here is what happens to your:

Recycling



Materials are separated with the work of machines and people at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF).



Recyclables are baled, sold and manufactured into new products.

Yard Waste



Yard waste is combined with wood waste and ground to create a protective barrier over the unused areas of the landfill. This organic material helps protect the groundwater supply at and around the landfill. Long after your yard work is done, this material just begins its work.

Give your recyclables a chance to become something new:



Garbage



When material is landfilled, it **cannot** be recycled into new products. Reducing, Reusing and Recycling helps reduce the amount of material that ends up here.



Less Toxic Cleaners

Spring is here and you might want to do a thorough house cleaning, but a lot of common household cleaning products are actually toxic to our health. Non-toxic homemade cleaning products aren't just better for us; they can also help save us money and protect the environment. Making your own products cuts down on packaging waste and reduces the release of household chemicals that can contribute to air and water pollution. The best news? The majority of the powerful cleaning products may well already be on our pantry shelves.

If you want less toxic cleaners in your home, you can do an online search for "non toxic cleaning recipes" and see what comes up. We checked the following webpage: http://eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm*



- **Baking Soda** - cleans, deodorizes, softens water, scours.
- **Lemon** - one of the strongest food-acids, effective against most household bacteria.
- **White Vinegar** - cuts grease, removes mildew, odors, some stains and wax -up.
- **Borax** - (sodium borate) cleans, deodorizes, disinfects, softens water, cleans wallpaper, painted walls and floors.

Here are some alternatives to commercial air fresheners:

- Place Baking soda or vinegar with lemon juice in small dishes absorbs odors around the house.
- Simmer water and cinnamon or other spices on stove.
- Prevent cooking odors by simmering vinegar (one tbsp in one cup water) on the stove while cooking. To get such smells as fish and onion off utensils and cutting boards, wipe them with vinegar and wash in soapy water.

Bulky Item Recycle Days Drop-Off Events

There are four opportunities each year for residents (not businesses) to drop off specific recyclable items at the John Smith Road Landfill at no additional charge.

The remaining **2014** drop-off events are Saturdays and Sundays, 9am to 3pm, on these dates:

- **June 28 & 29**
- **September 27 & 28**
- **December 27 & 28**

Call **831-637-4515** to confirm items accepted and drop-off event dates.



Reduce Litter – Keep Your Community Clean

Litter is a problem throughout California. Litter affects human safety and wildlife. Reducing litter in our communities will improve our environment and contribute to a better quality of life.

If you do the following, you can reduce litter when your cart is emptied at the curb:

- Put shredded paper in a paper bag and staple it closed.
- Bag your plastic bags. When you put single plastic bags in the recycle cart, they can become litter and cause problems at the processing facility by getting caught in machinery.
- Bag your garbage. Not only will this reduce litter, it will keep your garbage cart clean.

As a way to recognize Earth Day, the San Benito County Integrated Waste Management Regional Agency organized a litter clean up at Veteran's Memorial Park. With the help of 15 volunteers, approximately 1,000 pounds of litter was collected.

Thank you to the volunteers!

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We value your opinion, questions, or comments.
www.recologysanbenitocounty.com

Other Important Resources
San Benito County Integrated
Waste Management Regional Agency
(831) 636-4110