



Spring 2013

[unicycler.com](http://unicycler.com)

**Contact Us:**  
Rohnert Park Disposal  
(707) 586-2283

**New!**



Online Chat at:  
[unicycler.com](http://unicycler.com)

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 7am-6pm  
Saturday - Sunday 7am-3pm



[/NorthBayUnicycler](https://www.facebook.com/NorthBayUnicycler)

## Upcoming Events:

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

**May 12th - 19th:**



**June 15th:**



**July 25th - Aug. 11th:**



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## 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](http://www.climateprotection.org). For more information about organics in the green can and commercial food scrap composting, visit [www.unicycler.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.



DOUBLE TREE<sup>®</sup>  
HOTEL



Redwood Empire  
Disposal  
[unicycler.com](http://unicycler.com)



Want to join our "Green Family"?  
Email now to [GreenFamily@unicycler.com](mailto: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 Lamentor

### Dear Lid Lamentor:

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](mailto:greenteam@unicycler.com). Or, like us on Facebook and post your questions there.



/NorthBayUnicycler

## 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](http://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](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.



## New!

No need to spend your time on the phone. Simply go to [unicycler.com](http://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.



**Rohnert Park Disposal**

PO Box 1916  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Tel (707) 586-2283  
Tel (800) 243-0291  
Fax (707) 586-5543

# Whole Foods is Dedicated to Taking the Next Step in Recycling



Whole Foods Market - Coddington, Santa Rosa

Wise moms everywhere remind us that actions speak louder than words. We can all talk about saving our planet but making those smart and sometimes challenging choices every day is what's going to get the job done. Whole Foods has been trying to make green choices since they first opened their store, and understand that companies can have a large impact on our environment.

Their commitment to the environment is embraced as one of their Core Values, yet this dedication to a thriving, healthy planet is not confined to a few key topical areas. They have long employed a stakeholder approach to managing the business, one that places the business within a system of exchanges, with myriad interdependencies. Just as they employ a systems approach to business, they view the world as a beautiful and complex system and as citizens of the world, hope to leave it a better place than the one we inherited. Whole Foods believes that their pledge to utilize alternative energy where possible, occupy green buildings, source and buy fairly traded sustainable palm oil, and devotion to organic agriculture will do just that.

Whole Foods was the first major retailer to offset 100% of their energy use with wind energy credits and they are glad to see that some of the world's largest retailers are following the example they've set in green building, the use of solar power, company-wide recycling programs, internal green mission programs and support for organics. When more companies take green steps, we all win. The people who work there — from the CEO on down — are passionate about food, good health and the future of this little blue dot that we all call home.

With such a passion for making the right choices for our planet, it seems that Whole Foods and the Ratto Group's commercial food scrap program is a natural fit. The commercial program offers compostable waste collection for more material than most residential programs, including material like meat, bones, dairy, and seafood, as well as compostable plastics and soiled paper products such as waxy paper take-out containers and cardboard boxes.

"Deciding to implement a composting program with the Ratto Group was an easy decision that is yielding results for our community and planet," says Ben Lazanni, Marketing Team Leader for Whole Foods. "It is perfectly in line with our core values, allows us to make the most of our compostable food packages and serving ware, and will save us money in the long run."

These compostable food containers, as well as spoiled produce, leftover kitchen scraps and other compostable waste that used to go into landfills is now being hauled by the Ratto Group to facilities where it is turned into compost. Whole Foods has also banned plastic grocery bags from their store, encouraging the practice of bringing your own re-usable bags or using their paper grocery bags which are made from recycled paper with a high percentage of post-consumer waste whenever possible.

Organizations like Whole Foods in our community truly pave the way and set a great example for making business decisions that are good for the environment. Our team at the Ratto Group is proud to partner with Whole Foods and we thank them for their continued efforts to help keep material out of our community landfills.

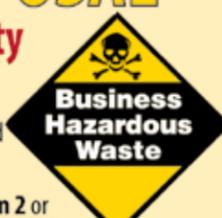
If you know of a company who goes above and beyond to help recycle and compost, and should be featured in a future newsletter, please email us at [greenteam@unicycler.com](mailto:greenteam@unicycler.com).

**FOR BUSINESSES**

## TOXICS DISPOSAL

### Household Toxics Facility

Located at the Central Disposal Site, the Household Toxics Facility is open for drop-off of hazardous waste from qualified Sonoma County businesses.



**Appointment required:** Call 795-2025 option 2 or toll-free 1-877-747-1870 or email [toxicsdisposal@cleanharbors.com](mailto:toxicsdisposal@cleanharbors.com)

**Forms & fees:** Paperwork required. Download forms at [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org). \$25 processing fee plus disposal fees based on type and quantity of waste.

**Hours:** **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 7:30 am–2:30 pm**

**Location:** **Central Disposal Site (Bldg. 5)** at 500 Mecham Rd., Petaluma

### Community Toxics Collections

Every week there is a toxics collection somewhere in Sonoma County. Space may be limited for business appointments and is based on availability.

**Appointment required:** Call 795-2025 option 2 or toll-free 1-877-747-1870

**Forms & fees:** Paperwork required. Download forms at [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org) \$25 processing fee plus disposal fees based on type and quantity of waste.

**Hours:** **Tuesdays 4-8 pm** For a calendar of Community Toxics Collections, visit [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org)

*The Household Hazardous Waste program is funded by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency.*

**[www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org) Eco-Desk 565-3375**

SONOMA COUNTY

# RECYCLE



**GET IN THE HABIT. BRING YOUR OWN BAG!**

LOOK FOR YOUR **RECYCLING GUIDE** IN THE PHONE BOOK AT&T YELLOW PAGES UNDER RECYCLING

Eco-Desk 565-3375  
**[WWW.RECYCLENOW.ORG](http://WWW.RECYCLENOW.ORG)**




## TOXICS DISPOSAL

### SERVICE OPTIONS FOR RESIDENTS

**1 Household Toxics Facility**  
Located at the Central Disposal Site, the Household Toxics Facility is open every week for **free drop-off** of toxics from Sonoma County residents. Bring your ID to prove residency.  
**Appointment:** Not required  
**Hours:** **Thursday, Friday & Saturday 7:30 am–2:30 pm**  
**Location:** **Central Disposal Site (Bldg. 5)** 500 Mecham Rd., Petaluma



**2 Community Toxics Collections**  
**By appointment only**  
Every week there is a toxics collection somewhere in Sonoma County. Bring your ID to prove residency.  
**Appointment required:** Call 795-2025 option 3 or toll-free 1-877-747-1870 or email [toxicsdisposal@cleanharbors.com](mailto:toxicsdisposal@cleanharbors.com)  
**Hours:** **Tuesdays 4-8 pm**

### 2013 Community Toxics Collections schedule

<b>March 2013</b>	<b>July 2013</b>	<b>Locations of Community Toxics Collections will be provided when you schedule your appointment. Call at least 24 hours prior to the collection event.</b>
12 Monte Rio 19 Sebastopol 26 Cloverdale	2 Petaluma 9 Kenwood 16 Windsor 23 Santa Rosa, SE 30 Rohnert Park	
<b>April 2013</b>	<b>August 2013</b>	<b>November 2013</b>
2 Santa Rosa, NE 9 Windsor 16 Sonoma 23 Santa Rosa, SW 30 Guerneville	6 Oakmont 13 Larkfield 20 Sebastopol 27 Santa Rosa, NE	
<b>May 2013</b>	<b>September 2013</b>	<b>December 2013</b>
7 Boyes Hot Springs 14 Healdsburg 21 Sonoma 28 Santa Rosa, NW	3 Guerneville 10 Healdsburg 17 Santa Rosa, NW 24 Sonoma	
<b>June 2013</b>	<b>October 2013</b>	
4 Oakmont 11 Cloverdale 18 Graton 25 Santa Rosa, SW	1 Cloverdale 8 Santa Rosa, SE 15 Oakmont 22 Petaluma 29 Glen Ellen	5 Windsor 12 Kenwood 19 Santa Rosa, SE 3 Forestville 10 Santa Rosa, NW 17 Sebastopol

For a complete schedule of events, visit [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org)

**Transportation & packing:** State transportation laws limit each vehicle to a maximum of 15 gallons of liquid (with a maximum of 5 gallons per container) or 125 pounds of solid material • Never mix chemicals • Place in sealed containers in the trunk, packed to prevent spills • Syringes/needles must be in a sealed and labeled approved container.

**Not accepted:** Explosives or ammunition • Radioactive materials • Electronics • Biological wastes (except syringes) • Controlled substances.



*The Household Hazardous Waste program is funded by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency.*

**[www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org) Eco-Desk 565-DESK(3375)**