

Waste-Wise Business Spotlight

Pilgrim Park Apartments
33 Merrydale Road, San Rafael



MAJOR GAINS:

- ◆ \$9155 in annual savings
- ◆ Decreased waste going to landfill by 30%

SECRETS TO SUCCESS:

- ◆ Recognizing that residents are the key to a program's success
- ◆ Evaluating the existing system before making changes

The objectives at Pilgrim Park Apartments are “to provide quality affordable housing and to promote community among the residents and with the neighbors on Pilgrim Hill.” Improving their waste management turned out to be a way to advance both goals. The complex was already recycling, but there weren't enough recycling carts, and a lot of recyclable material was going into the landfill dumpsters.

This year, Pilgrim Park staff worked with Marin Sanitary Service to reduce their 8 dumpsters down to 6, and reduced the size of most of them. **Each dumpster is paired with a paper and a container recycling cart** and one cardboard recycling bin has also been brought in. **These changes have led to annual cost-savings of over \$9000**, which will be put back into improvements to the nonprofit housing complex. The complex has long had a Salvation Army donation box, which is used by the wider community beyond Pilgrim Park. Management arranges for pick-up of larger items when necessary. This prevents usable items from being landfilled, while supporting another nonprofit.

The residents' participation has been key to the program's success. **MSS staff held informational meetings for the residents** and provided them with materials in both English and Spanish. **Residents are frequently encouraged and acknowledged** for their efforts. The residents have found that recycling is easy to do and are proud of their accomplishments and their clean neighborhood!



For more info & other Waste Wise Spotlights, visit: CityofSanRafael.org/waste-wise

Saving Money and the Environment by Being Waste-Wise

For a complete Property Managers' Recycling Guide, including a sample tenant welcome letter, move-in guide, lease agreement, and other best practices, go to:

<http://marinsanitaryservice.com/resources-for-a-successful-recycling-program/>

Bulky Items

Bulky items, or those that don't fit in a garbage container (such as mattresses and furniture) should NOT be stuffed into a dumpster or left out on the street or next to a garbage container. They **should be donated or properly disposed of**. Help your residents by providing them with contact information for reuse stores (see link above) and for the public dump. You may be able to arrange for a local nonprofit to pick up furniture. It may also be a good idea to periodically rent a large debris box from Marin Sanitary Service for your residents' unwanted, nonreusable, nonhazardous items.



Marin Resource Recovery Center
(Public Indoor Dump)
565 Jacoby St., Phone:(415) 458-5646
Mon-Sat 8am-4pm & Sun 9am-4pm

Disposing of Used Motor Oil

Recycling is the only legal way to dispose of used motor oil and filters. Used oil from one oil change *can contaminate one million gallons of fresh water!* Some of your residents may change their own oil. Help them to comply with the law and keep our environment clean by providing them with resources on how and where to recycle used oil.

For collection sites and guidelines, go to:

<http://marinrecycles.org/zero-waste-101/MOFR/>

Pilgrim Parks' Recycling Best Practices

1. Encourage residents' sense of ownership and pride.
2. Inform and educate residents about what goes in which bin, as well as what happens to the recycling and why it is important for the environment.
3. Communicate to residents the results of their efforts and acknowledge them.
4. Provide informational meetings and materials in Spanish and English.
5. Educational materials should use images to bypass language barriers.
6. Monitor and evaluate the current system before creating a plan for change.
7. Work with maintenance staff to determine high-use areas that may require more or larger bins.
8. Place waste stations strategically to avoid illegal dumping from outside the complex.
9. Place both paper and mixed recycling carts with each dumpster.
10. Label bins clearly with images of what can go in them.
11. Implement the plan in stages to allow residents and staff to get used to it.
12. Work with residents to help with disposal of large, bulky items.

Contact Marin Sanitary Service for more information:

www.marinsanitary.com | (415) 456-2601 | 1050 Andersen Drive, San Rafael, CA