

Recycle

(it's easier than you think)



Graphic by Meghan Sills

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Editor in Chief

If your New Year's resolution was to reduce, reuse and recycle then you are in good company. "While solid waste generation has increased, from 3.66 to 4.50 pounds per person per day between 1980 and 2008, the recycling rate has also increased—from less than 10 percent of MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) generated in 1980 to over 33 percent in 2008. Disposal of waste to a landfill has decreased from 89 percent of the amount generated in 1980," according to the EPA report, "Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2008."

I remember one summer my parents had my sisters and I partake in a friendly little competition of recycling. We each chose which we thought would make us the most money and saved our items in different bins in the back yard. My older sisters recycled cans and newspapers but I recycled bottles. I won. When we think about recycling the first thing that comes to mind is the most obvious, bottles, cans, some cardboard and the Sunday paper but if you look hard enough you will find that almost everything can be recycled and for a bonus some things are worth a little cash.

Plastics

Plastics are recyclable but let's get down to the nitty gritty. Have you

ever noticed what looks like a recycle symbol on the bottom of plastic containers? You know the triangle arrows and a number? Did you know that symbol does not necessarily mean that the item is recyclable? What it does tell you is the type of plastic that the container is.

In 1988, plastic manufacturers wanted to create the resin numbering system to help improve the environment and preserve natural resources by sorting and recycling plastic garbage. Some of which are not used in recycling. According to the plastics industry trade association, one of the potential benefits of this coding is that it could facilitate the recovery of plastics not currently collected for recycling from the waste stream and may drive exploration for a means of recycling it.

The next time you buy a bottled beverage, take a close look at the label. If you see CA CASH REFUND or CA CRV, it means you can redeem it for cash at a recycle center. Pretty cool huh? Actually, it's added to the price of the beverage when you buy it so it's in your best interest to get your money back. It is usually around five cents but if you drink enough those five cents adds up.

The plastics that are recycled are used to make hundreds of products. The soft drink bottles you threw out last week can make a baseball cap when they are recycled into a polyester fiber. Artificial lumber is

made of recycled plastic and used in sea walls, fence posts and decking material. Even my cell phone is made of recycled plastic. In fact, my cell phone company gave me a \$25 credit to recycle my old phone.

Juice Boxes

Something that you may not have known was recyclable are drink boxes and cartons, aseptic containers, which are made of plastic, metal and paper in layers. Although not available in North County, there are a number of communities to the east and north that have gotten with the program. To keep updated on the status of your community the aseptic container manufactures have a search feature on the website, <http://www.aseptic.org>.

Electronic Waste

Discarded electronic products such as televisions, monitors, cell phones and computers can be environmental hazards. To prevent consumers from dumping them in the landfills California has imposed an Electronic Waste Recycling Fee. The fee ranges from ranging from \$8 to \$25 and is charged to the consumer at the time of the sale. These types of products have hazardous components which make it unlawful to dispose of the devices with regular municipal waste. According to eRecycle.org, the Electronic Waste Recycling Fee is not a deposit, recycling the product has no redemption value and consumers are not entitled to reimbursement of the fee when they recycle it. The intent

of the fee is to reduce, or eliminate, the costs associated with proper recycling electronic products.

Tires

Does anyone really need more than one old tire swing? California generates 44.4 million waste tires each year. Tires are recycled to make some interesting products you may not know about including playground and garden mulch, rubberized asphalt concrete, Roof shingles and Equestrian arena surfaces. Old tires in the yard can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes so recycle them and protect your health. Big O tires and Discount Tires will recycle tires for a fee usually one to five dollars per tire.

Other car related items that can be recycled are car batteries and motor oil which most auto parts stores will recycle for you.

Construction Materials

Construction materials such as wood, dirt, concrete, asphalt and drywall are recyclable materials that can be taken to centers like EDCO in San Marcos rather than thrown into a landfill.

One man's trash may be another's treasure. You could recycle just about anything by listing on craigslist.org or freecycle.org. Still, the money lies where it always has in glass bottles and aluminum cans. Plastic products are tricky, but look for the CRV. Paper products require tons of material to make it worth collecting.

Where to Recycle in North County

Quality Recycling
149 Nettleton Rd
Vista, CA 92083
Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
<http://www.qualityrecycle.com/>

Oceanside Recycling Center
2880 Industry St.
Oceanside, CA 92054
Tuesday - Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Carlsbad Recycling Center
5960 El Camino Real
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tuesday - Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed for lunch from noon-12:40 p.m.

Del Mar Recycling Center
2265 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
Del Mar, CA 92014
Tuesday - Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed for lunch from noon-12:40 pm

Recycle Centers operated by EDCO
224 S. Las Posas Rd.

San Marcos, Ca
(760) 744-2700
Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sat 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(Closed daily noon to 1 p.m.)

E-world Recyclers
2480 Ash Street
Vista, CA 92081
Contact: Joleen Burke joleen@eworldrecyclers.com
Phone: (760) 599-0888 x202

Coast Waste Management
5960 El Camino Real
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Contact: Richard Scott rscott@wm.com
Phone: (760) 754-4141