

# Placer Recycles

You Toss. We Sort.

The Western Placer Waste Management Authority sorts recyclables for you at the Materials Recovery Facility.

▶ **Explore how these efforts are benefiting Placer residents and the environment.**



**WESTERN PLACER**  
WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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## Not sure how recycling happens in Placer County? It's simple—and you're already doing it!

**R**ecycling is a collective effort by communities to ensure environmental integrity for all residents. Despite the consensus that recycling is a worthy cause, people can easily become discouraged with having to sort their trash, leading many well-intentioned residents to give up on the idea of recycling.

Western Placer County's system makes recycling foolproof for residents. Households are given a large bin where they can easily toss both their non-hazardous trash and recyclable items together, and the Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA) sorts the contents at its state-of-the-art Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), pronounced "murf."

Instead of relying on 400,000 people to decide what to recycle, sorting is done by approximately 50 people at the MRF whose job it is to recover recyclable items. "The positive results of this difference are obvious," says WPWMA Deputy Director Kevin Bell. "While many U.S. cities are struggling to keep residents participating in recycling programs, in Placer County, 100% of residents are recycling, whether

they realize it or not, thanks to the WPWMA's MRF."

With machines and human eyes on the case, the WPWMA is sorting trash from potential treasure to divert materials from landfills. "The diversion rate for jurisdictions served by the WPWMA is well over the state mandated 50%," Bell says, "which means the MRF is doing its job to keep valuable materials out of the landfill."

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**KEVIN BELL**  
WPWMA Deputy Director

The mixed-waste MRF also generates more immediate benefits, such as fewer greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the number of trucks running collection routes each week. "We have been able to bend and change to meet new regulations as they've come along," Bell says. "It is a very sustainable model."

While residents are still responsible for keeping hazardous materials and electronics out of their bins, the WPWMA and the jurisdictions that use it work to educate residents on how to identify these items and make it easy to properly dispose of them by providing free drop-off or curbside pickup.

## LOOKING FORWARD

The WPWMA has continually adapted to accommodate increasingly stringent state-mandated recycling regulations, fluctuating global recycling markets, and a growing population.

To address these factors and ensure the ability to continue providing solid waste and recycling services to Placer County jurisdictions and residents, the WPWMA initiated a master planning process termed the Renewable Placer: Waste Action Plan to evaluate potential facility modifications, expansion and enhancements intended to maintain the facility's long-term viability.

### PLAN GOALS



**Increase facility recycling and landfill diversion**



**Comply with expanding regulations**



**Maintain local control and stable rates**



**Provide capacity for current and future population and development**



**Create opportunities for innovation and economic growth**



**Enhance operations compatibility with current and future neighboring land uses**

"To meet these goals, we have engaged a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties for input on Plan concepts," says WPWMA Program Manager Eric Oddo. "We want to evaluate facility needs in a transparent process."

**See the Plan concepts and more at [RenewablePlacer.com](http://RenewablePlacer.com).**



# Sorting Out WPWMA's Services

The WPWMA is a regional agency established in 1978 through a joint exercise of powers agreement between Placer County and the cities of Lincoln, Rocklin and Roseville to own, operate and maintain a sanitary landfill and all related improvements. The WPWMA also provides solid waste and recycling services to the cities of Auburn and Colfax and the Town of Loomis.

## MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF)

The majority of waste generated in Placer County is sorted at the MRF to recover recyclable materials and divert waste from the landfill. Waste is mechanically sorted by size and manually sorted by type, and magnets are used to remove ferrous and non-ferrous metals. Recyclable materials are recovered, baled and marketed; the remainder of the material is sent to the WPWMA's landfill.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

State law prohibits hazardous items from being placed in your trash or green waste bin. Residents can drop off paint, batteries, motor oil and other hazardous items daily at no cost. Businesses can also utilize the service by appointment for a fee. See the following page for a complete list of acceptable items, some of which can be picked up (for free!) from your home by appointment.

## COMPOSTING

Grass, leaves and branches are transformed into nutrient-rich, organically certified compost that is available for purchase at the Recycling Buyback Center. Commercial food waste is also composted and the WPWMA is preparing to accept residential food waste in the near future. Wood waste is chipped and sent to a local biomass facility where it is used to produce electricity.

## RECYCLING BUY-BACK


Residents can drop off clean, separated recyclables such as cardboard and mixed paper for free, and can turn in glass, plastic and aluminum beverage containers with a CA redemption value (CRV) for a cash refund.

## LANDFILL

The Western Regional Sanitary Landfill is the only active landfill in Placer County. It is operated in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, with water and gas monitoring wells, litter control screens, lined cells to prevent liquids from leaching into the groundwater, and a landfill gas collection system that delivers the gas to an onsite landfill gas-to-energy plant and helps to reduce the potential for odors.

## CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE

Construction materials including sheet rock, plastic, wood, metal, concrete and rock are recovered for recycling.



The WPWMA's facilities consist of the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill and the MRF, which includes composting, household hazardous waste, recycling drop-off and buy-back facilities.

# HHW: Free drop-off and pickup!



State law prohibits many common Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) items including paint, batteries, electronics, sharps and medications from being placed in the trash. Keeping these items out of your bin helps protect the environment and the people collecting and sorting your waste and allows sorters to focus on recovering more recyclables. HHW and electronics can be dropped off and some items can even be picked up from your home by appointment – find an option that works for you!

## ✓ ACCEPTED

- Fluorescent lights
- Batteries, household and vehicle
- Used motor oil and filters
- Household oils and greases
- Compressed gas cylinders up to 20 lbs.
- Paints of all types
- Cleaners, solvents and degreasers
- Medications
- Sharps (lancets and syringes)
- Aerosol cans
- Thermometers and thermostats containing mercury
- Pesticides
- Electronics (computers, televisions, phones)
- Most products with warning labels

## ✗ NOT ACCEPTED

- Radioactive material
- Explosives
- Industrial compressed gas cylinders
- Ammunition
- Asbestos

## FREE CURBSIDE PICKUP

Call your waste hauler to schedule a free curbside pickup appointment for these items:



Batteries  
(Household & Vehicle)



Motor Oil  
& Filters



Fluorescent  
Tubes & Bulbs



Electronics & Items  
Containing Mercury

Please do not leave items out unless you have made an appointment with your hauler, as items will not be picked up without an appointment.

*\*This service is not available in all areas; call to verify*

**(530) 885-3735**

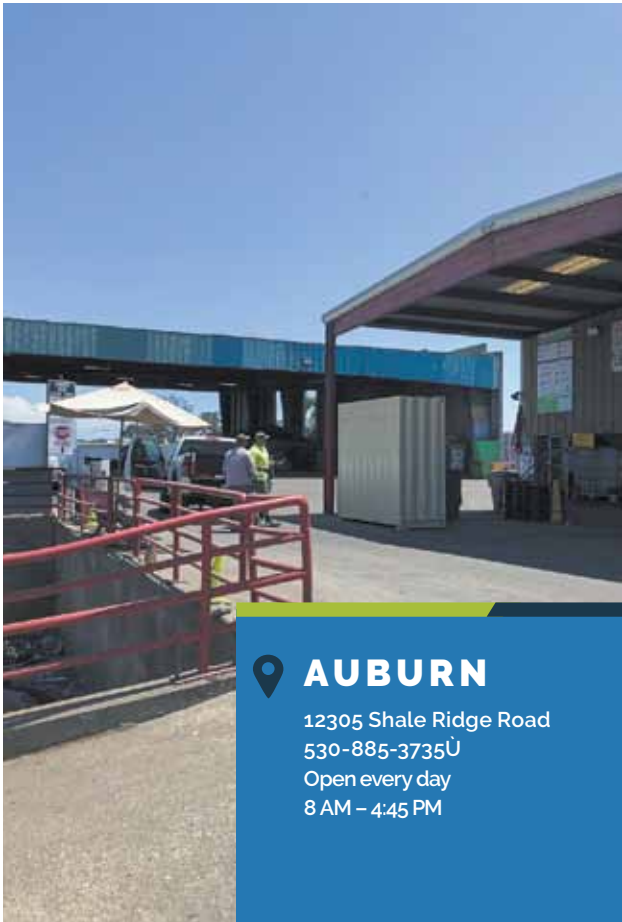
Placer County,  
Auburn, Colfax,  
Loomis, Rocklin

**(916) 774-5780**

City of Roseville

**(916) 434-2450**

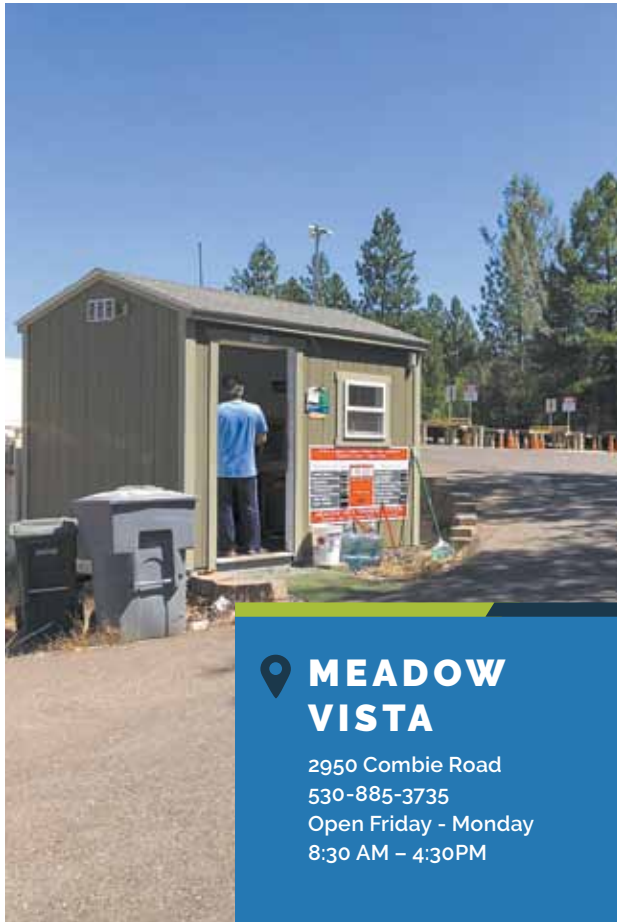
City of Lincoln



**AUBURN**  
 12305 Shale Ridge Road  
 530-885-3735  
 Open every day  
 8 AM – 4:45 PM

✓ **ACCEPTABLE ITEMS**

- Fluorescent lights
- Batteries, household and vehicle
- Used motor oil and filters
- Household oils and greases
- Compressed gas cylinders up to 5 lbs.
- Latex paint
- Sharps (lancets and syringes)
- Electronics (computers, televisions, phones)



**MEADOW VISTA**  
 2950 Combie Road  
 530-885-3735  
 Open Friday - Monday  
 8:30 AM – 4:30PM

✓ **ACCEPTABLE ITEMS**

- Fluorescent lights
- Batteries, household and vehicle
- Used motor oil and filters
- Compressed gas cylinders up to 5 lbs.



**FORESTHILL**  
 6699 Patent Road  
 530-885-3735  
 Open Friday - Monday  
 8 AM – 5:PM

- Latex paint
- Sharps (lancets and syringes)
- Electronics (computers, televisions, phones)

▶ For more information, visit [PlacerRecycles.com](http://PlacerRecycles.com)



**HOW TO TRANSPORT YOUR HHW**

**LIMIT** of 15 gallons or 125 pounds per visit

**TRANSPORT** products upright in a rigid, leak-proof container in trunk or truck bed

**PLACE** leaking containers in tightly sealed plastic bag or box

**KEEP** products in their original, labeled, sealed containers

**LABEL** any product not in its original container

**SORT** products by material type

**DO NOT** mix products!

**TRANSPORT** similar products together to avoid potentially dangerous chemical reactions



## WHAT I NEED TO KNOW



### WHO PICKS UP MY GARBAGE?

Waste collection differs depending on where you live in western Placer County. The Cities of Lincoln and Roseville provide their own solid waste collection services, and Recology Auburn Placer services the remainder of western Placer County.

▶ Recology – Unincorporated Placer County, Auburn, Colfax, Loomis and Rocklin  
**(530) 885-3735**

▶ City of Lincoln **(916) 434-2450** ▶ City of Roseville **(916) 774-5780**

### WHY DON'T I HAVE A RECYCLING BIN?

You do! In western Placer County, garbage and recyclables are tossed into one bin and sorted at the WPWMA's Materials Recovery Facility. Recovered recyclable materials are baled and marketed for use in new products.

### HOW DO I GET RID OF HAZARDOUS ITEMS?

Most of us aren't sure what to do with oil, grease, used batteries, old electronics and other hazardous wastes that can't go in the bin, so we tend to keep them long after we need them. In western Placer County, disposing of those items is convenient and free! HHW & electronics can be dropped off at the MRF every day, and some items can be picked up from your home by appointment; see previous page for details.

# What Will the Neighbors Think!?

April Marskell, a Roseville resident, says the free curbside pickup program for household hazardous waste is impressive and one that everyone should know about.

**S**he knows most residents don't fully understand issues of waste disposal and recycling—because she used to be one of them. "I had no idea about the dangers of things like aerosol cans or batteries," Marskell says. "So I would just toss them in the trash. Until I got involved with the WPWMA's Renewable Placer Waste Action Plan Working Group for their master planning effort, I was kind of absentminded about these things, like I think a lot of people are."

Residential pickup service is an easy way to dispose of the kinds of grease and oils that can cause damage if poured down the drain or dumped in the trash. Residents with curbside collection can also have batteries, fluorescent lights, electronics and used motor oil picked up right in front of their homes.

"Setting that up is really effortless," Marskell says. "It's just a matter of calling your garbage hauler to schedule a pickup."

Because Marskell lives in a neighborhood that lies just south of the WPWMA's facility, she has a growing interest in waste issues. For example, in addition to her participation in the Working Group, she attends the WPWMA's annual public odor workshop where she learned how responsive WPWMA is to the community—they have created an alert system, for example, to quickly notify facility personnel when odor notifications are filed by the public. With her new insider look at the solid waste industry, April tries to spread the word about the work being done by the WPWMA and western Placer County jurisdictions.

"Really, I think everybody here should take a tour of the facility," she says. "I think a lot of people don't have time to think about what happens to their garbage after it's collected, but there's a lot involved once your trash reaches the MRF. And the WPWMA and its cities offer so many programs that are not being utilized as much as they could be. ... I think people don't realize how easy it is to utilize the free curbside pickup or drop-off services and that their lives could be a lot easier if they did."

**"Setting that up is really effortless. It's just a matter of calling your garbage hauler to schedule a pickup."**

**APRIL MARSKELL**  
*Roseville resident*

# Keeping Essential Workers, the Community and the Environment Safe

Drivers and Sorters Make Recycling Happen Safely



**DAN LOMBARDI**  
Driver

**“W**hen I was driving my truck, my favorite thing about the job was watching the kids come out. They have a great time seeing the truck, seeing you honk the horn, saying hi,” says Dan Lombardi, who has worked for the City of Roseville for more than 17 years, including nine as a senior refuse driver.

While Lombardi enjoyed the days of connecting with his community, his job as a driver also posed many complexities and dangers. When household hazardous waste (HHW) was not disposed of properly and instead put into the regular trash bins, Lombardi was put at risk as a driver.

“We pick up stuff all the time that we don’t know of, because it hides at the bottom of a can,” he explains. “You see it go in and you can’t get it out. It can put you as a driver at risk when people don’t follow the rules.”

Lombardi recommends using the HHW drop-off centers, which can keep drivers safe. He says for the most part, he thinks people understand why it’s so important to use them.

“Roseville also has a (curbside pickup) program for hazardous waste,” he says. “For me, it helps the city keep that stuff out of the cans, dumpsters and landfill.”

Lombardi also believes it’s important to think about the safety of the communities that these trucks are serving. People may drive by the trucks quickly or approach the trucks without understanding the power of these vehicles. “Watch out for these trucks. They’re a rolling piece of machinery,” he cautions. “Just keep an eye out and stay a safe distance away.”

**C**harles Leach, previously a sorter and now the sort lead, works at the heart of recycling in the Material Recovery Facility.

He spends his days making sure the MRF is up to full speed on its eight-hour run. “I check eyewash stations and fire extinguishers, and I make sure all the separators are running,” he says. “I am constantly doing things. There is no ‘slow’ here. There is only busy.”

At the MRF, a series of conveyor belts and complex machinery separate materials for recovery and recycling. While this kind of work environment may seem dangerous or challenging, especially if hazardous waste is disposed of incorrectly, Leach says he works in a very safe place. “Batteries create spot fires here and there, but it is extremely safe here,” he says. “Safety is our number one priority.”

Leach emphasizes the importance of communities doing their part to ensure trash is free from hazardous waste like batteries as it arrives at his facility. “As long as everyone does their job, it makes our job easier.” While he works long, busy days, Leach says he feels fulfilled because he is ultimately contributing to saving our planet.

“The more I do to help out with the environment,” he says, “the better I feel when I go rest my head.”



## FACILITIES

### 1) 3195 Athens Avenue, Lincoln

916-645-5230 x107  
Open every day 8 AM - 5 PM

### 4) 2950 Combie Road, Meadow Vista

530-885-3735  
Open Friday - Monday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

### 2) 12305 Shale Ridge Road, Auburn

530-885-3735  
Open every day 8 AM - 4:45 PM

### 3) 6699 Patent Road, Foresthill

530-885-3735  
Open Friday - Monday 8 AM - 5 PM

GET SOCIAL  
@ONEBIGBIN



## PLACER RECYCLES IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

