

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



**The City
of Irvine**
(949) 724-7669



**Waste Management
of Orange County**
(949) 642-1191

Spring 2008



Buyback and recycling center opens in Irvine

Fundraising opportunities available for schools and non-profits

During January, Waste Management of Orange County, in conjunction with the Orange County Conservation Corps, opened a buyback and recycling center at its Irvine facility. This buyback and recycling center will help local residents in Orange County keep the community clean by accepting recyclables, such as aluminum, glass, and plastic, in exchange for cash. Items such as newspaper, cardboard, tin cans, and non-CRV plastics are also accepted but do not have a cash value.

Other recyclable materials, such as e-waste and batteries, will be accepted at the Sunset Transfer Station, which is located across the street from the new buyback and recycling center. In addition, the new center will provide fundraising opportunities for area schools and non-profit organizations. For more information on fundraising opportunities, contact Chrystal Denning at 714-480-2315.

If you're looking to redeem your cans and bottles for their CRV (California Refund Value), please visit the new buyback and recycling center, which is operated by Orange County Conservation Corps: **Waste Management**

Recycling Center, 16122 Construction Circle East, Irvine. The center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center will be closed on Sundays, Mondays, and holidays.

These items are redeemable for cash back: CRV aluminum cans, CRV glass bottles, CRV plastic bottles, and CRV bi-metal cans.

Other items accepted for recycling include non-CRV aluminum, non-CRV glass, non-CRV plastic, tin cans, newspaper, white ledger paper, computer paper, mixed paper, and corrugated cardboard. You *will not be paid* for these materials, but you can recycle them at no charge.

These materials *will NOT be accepted* at the buyback and recycling center: household hazardous waste, electronics, and medical waste.

Waste Management is the leading provider of comprehensive waste and environmental services in North America. For more information about recycling, log onto www.wmorangecounty.com.



Meet the "Irvine Recycles" team

Children's Water Festival
Tuesday & Wednesday, April 15 & 16
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Hidden Valley Park
8800 Irvine Center Drive

This 12th annual festival is an environmental and water education event for over 6,000 fourth and fifth grade students and their teachers and parents. The festival features more than 70 interactive and hands-on activities that teach

about the environment, water resources, recycling, and ecology. The goal of the festival is to educate children about our ever-decreasing water supply, environmental stewardship, and groundwater and surface water protection. The festival is presented by the Orange County Water District (OCWD), OCWD Groundwater Guardian Team, Disneyland Resort, and the National Water Research Institute. To learn more about the event, visit www.ocwd.com.

UCI Earth Day
Saturday, April 19
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Aldrich Park
University of California – Irvine
Campus

The event will feature electric vehicles on display, hands-on educational booths,

community service projects, art, and entertainment, all to raise awareness about environmental issues. The Irvine Recycles team will be on hand to encourage pollution prevention, waste reduction, and recycling. Educational materials and handouts will be available, along with the team's interactive Pollution Prevention Wheel Game where lucky winners will receive a promotional prize. For more information, call 949-824-3500 or visit www.uci.edu/celebrate.

Unwanted, Dead or Alive! Electronics, that is.

To help keep potentially toxic electronics out of landfills and waterways, the City of Irvine hosted an electronic waste (e-waste) collection event in March.

If you missed this event, you can drop off e-waste, along with household hazardous waste, such as lawn and garden chemicals, batteries, and fluorescent tubes and bulbs, at the County of Orange Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Center. The nearest HHWCC is located at 6411 Oak Canyon Avenue in Irvine and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information on the County HHWCC, call 714-834-6752 or visit www.oclandfills.com.

Waste Management's Sunset Environmental Transfer Station accepts TVs, computer monitors, and other cathode ray tubes (CRTs) at no charge. In addition, Waste Management can collect these items as part of the bulky item program. Residents with curbside service must call the customer service center to schedule a pickup.

Remember—under California State Law, e-waste must be recycled and cannot be thrown in the trash. Consumer electronics contain low levels of hazardous metals which can contaminate soil and water.

State bill prompts safe sharps disposal programs

On July 12, 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB1305 into law. This bill prohibits the placement of home-generated "sharps" in solid waste and recycling containers effective September 1, 2008.

Diabetics and others use thousands of needles every day as part of treatments for chronic medical conditions. Many of these sharps are improperly disposed and end up in residential trash bins or recycling carts, creating a safety and health risk for children, people in the community, and Waste Management workers both on the route and at collection facilities.

To address this issue, local cities and Waste Management have implemented a convenient Sharps Disposal by Mail System for residents. The Sharps Disposal by Mail System, administered by Waste Management partner Sharps Compliance,

Inc., provides individuals with a way to dispose of used hypodermic needles, lancets, test strips, and other small-quantity medical waste. Each system includes a specially designed sharps container and a postage-prepaid shipping container—which can be obtained at a local pharmacy—ensuring residents' medical waste will be delivered safely by the U.S. Postal Service to a certified medical waste facility, where it is destroyed.

Used sharps are placed inside the container for safe storage. When full, the container is closed, bagged, and sealed inside its original packaging. Residents then return the postage-prepaid box to their mail carrier or nearest post office.

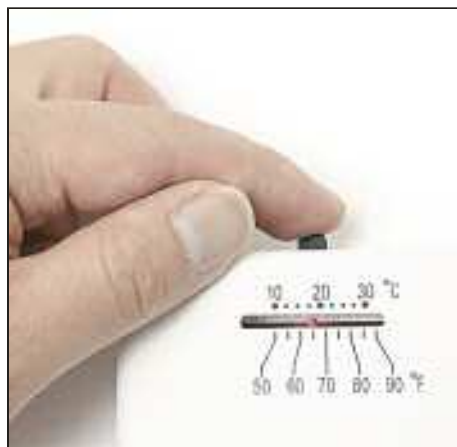
For more information, visit www.wastemd.com or contact Chrystal Denning at Waste Management at 714-480-2315.

10 Tips

to turn in a great year

Here are 10 easy ways to make it a better Earth Day and a better year for the Earth:

1. Turn it off. Switch off lights and appliances that aren't in use. Shut off the faucet while you shave or brush your teeth.



2. Turn it up (or down). Raise the temperature on your thermostat during the summer months to keep the house a bit warmer, and lower it during the winter months to keep the house a bit cooler. Dress accordingly.

3. Turn it over. Use both sides of paper. The back side of paper can be used to print drafts or jot notes. When you print and copy new documents, choose double-sided printing.

4. Turn it down. When you shop, carry your own tote bags and say "no thanks" to paper or plastic store bags.

5. Turn it in. Do some spring cleaning and give away clothing, housewares,

small appliances, toys, and games that you no longer need.

6. Turn it around. Use and reuse what you already have. Extend the life of what you own with proper maintenance. Follow instructions for recharging batteries to keep them in tip-top shape.

7. Turn it away. Reduce your waste at the source—don't buy what you don't really need. For example, take a look at last year's spring and summer clothes before you start shopping this year.

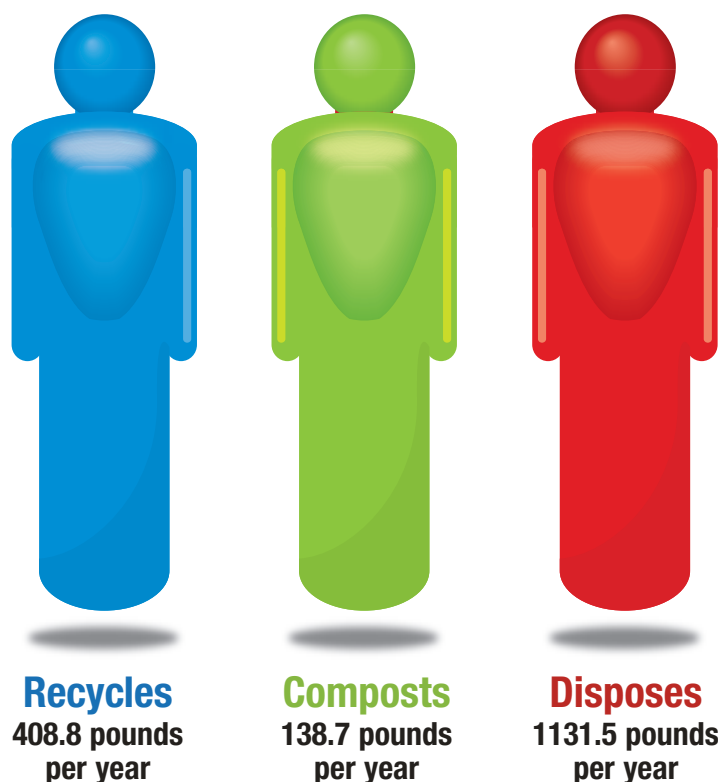


8. Turn it back...into something else. Recycle! Your old containers and paper products become brand-new stuff—from containers and paper to furniture and insulation.

9. Turn it under. Compost your yard and garden waste, as well as your fruit and vegetable scraps, to create a nutrient-rich soil amendment.

10. Turn it on. When you are excited about taking care of our Earth, you'll get others excited, too. So turn on your charm and tell your story!

The average American...



Source: "Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2006," U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Even if you don't own a pair of Crocs, you've seen them. They are the distinctive plastic clogs with the holes on top. If you have a worn-out or an outgrown pair, don't throw them away. Instead, give them a second life by recycling them through Crocs' SolesUnited program.

Crocs reborn

SolesUnited began as a way to recycle manufacturing scrap but has now expanded to include worn-out shoes. Many retailers that sell Crocs will accept used classic Crocs-brand shoes for this recycling program. If there is not a participating retailer near you, you can mail your old Crocs to one of these addresses:

- Crocs Recycling – West
3375 Enterprise Avenue
Bloomington, CA 92316
- Crocs Recycling – East
1500 Commodity Boulevard
Lockbourne, OH 43137

SolesUnited takes the old Crocs, sorts them, grinds them up, and turns them into new shoes. These shoes are packed into large shipping containers and sent to non-profit organizations in developing countries. SolesUnited Crocs cannot be resold by the organizations and must be given away to those who need shoes.

To date, SolesUnited has donated 1 million pairs of recycled shoes, with a goal of giving away 2 million by the end of this year.

For more information, visit www.SolesUnited.com.

QUOTES REQUESTED



To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees.

Theodore Roosevelt, 1858–1919
26th President of the United States

Extraordinary Uses

Your house is full of ordinary things—such as vinegar, salt, toothpaste, duct tape, and coffee grounds—that can have some extraordinary uses. In the process, you can save time and money and reduce your waste. Are you ready to get started? Check out a copy of the Reader's Digest book, *Extraordinary Uses for Ordinary Things*.

For example, you can only use one mouse pad at a time. So, what do you do with the mouse pads that you get as giveaways or that come when you purchase a new computer? The book offers these suggestions: Cut the pad into small circles or squares to be used as pads under furniture legs. Make knee pads for gardening. Put the pads under houseplants to keep pots from scraping your fine wood furniture. Use them as hot pads on your dinner table.

Rather than buy special cleaning products and storage containers, take a look at the 2,317 suggestions in this



book. You'll find lots of extraordinary uses for your ordinary household things.

Trashing Everest

Since Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the top of Mount Everest in 1953, more than 11,000 climbers have made the attempt and over 3,000 have reached the sought-after summit. In the process, these climbers have left behind more than 50 tons of waste at the high camps, including tents and gear that were left behind on the descent, oxygen bottles, batteries, and water bottles. This debris has earned Everest the nickname, “the world’s highest garbage dump.”

During the 2000 climbing season,

Japanese mountaineer Ken Noguchi began the slow process of cleaning up the world’s most famous—and highest—peak. His cleanup trips up the mountain have cleared away 9.9 tons of trash so far.

In addition to collecting waste and getting it off the mountain, these trips have raised awareness. As a result, more expeditions are packing down their own wastes. Plus, the government of Nepal has tightened restrictions. Climbing teams must now carry out their gear and trash or forfeit a sizable deposit.



You’re hearing more all the time about the transition to over-the-air digital television signals. But what does it mean for you? Do you need a new TV before next February? Will you need a converter box to keep your current TV working?

The answers to these questions depend on how you receive your TV signal now. Do you subscribe to cable TV or a satellite TV service? If so, you shouldn’t need to do a thing. The cable or satellite carrier will make all of the needed adjustments. If you have questions, watch for bill inserts describing the transition, or call your cable or satellite company’s customer service number.

If you rely on an outdoor antenna or indoor “rabbit ears” to receive local channels, you may need a converter box. The first question is this: Do you receive local, digital channels now? These are the “extra channels,” such as a weather/news station that comes from your local ABC network affiliate. If you are already receiving these channels, you have a TV with a digital tuner and you are all set for

the transition. If you don’t receive these channels, you will need a converter box to continue using your older TV.

Converter boxes will be sold at home electronics and appliance stores. There is a federal program to help you pay for your converter box.

Each household with analog-tuner TVs may receive up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, toward the purchase of digital-to-analog converter boxes. Converter boxes sell for about \$40 to \$70 each. For more information on the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program, visit www.ntia.doc.gov/dtv/coupon, or call 1-888-388-2009.

Beginning on February 17, 2009, all local, over-the-air television signals will have to be broadcast digitally. For more details about the conversion to digital transmission and how it will affect you and your TVs, visit the Federal

Communication Commission’s website, <http://dtv.gov/>, and the Environmental Protection Agency’s website, www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/recycle/ecycling/tv-convert.htm.

Please remember that if you do choose to replace your old TV, it shouldn’t go into the trash! Contact us about proper disposal.

According to the “One Day in America” report published in *Time* magazine on November 26, 2007, the average American household has more televisions (2.73) than people (2.6). In terms of our time, work and sleep come in first and second, but watching TV is a strong third.

Eco weddings and a funeral

From birth to death, our lives are filled with celebrations that mark new beginnings or tearful goodbyes. From births to weddings and from graduation parties to funerals, we mark our comings and goings with family, friends, food, and festivities.

If you are interested in planning greener festivities or learning more about the rituals that accompany common celebrations, check out these books and articles. Remember to look for books at the local library and used bookstores!

Eco-Chic Weddings: Simple Tips to Plan an Environmentally Friendly, Socially Responsible, Affordable, and Stylish Celebration by Emily Elizabeth Anderson

Grave Matters: A Journey Through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial by Mark Harris

“Green Weddings (and More)” by Tracy Fernandez Rysavy in *Real Money* — www.coopamerica.org/pubs/realmoney/articles/celebrations.cfm

Simply Green Parties: Simple and Resourceful Ideas for Throwing the Perfect Celebration, Event, or Get-Together by Danny Seo

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers by Mary Roach

“The Three R’s of Wedded Bliss” by Maureen Ryan in *The Green Guide* — www.thegreenguide.com/doc/120/weddings/2

Something to talk about

In January 2008, wireless service providers counted an average of 250 million cell phones in use each day. At present, the average phone is used for about 18 months, meaning that at least 150 million are replaced each year. Of these, most are probably sitting in someone’s “junk drawer.” However, many of them could easily be refurbished and reused, while the remainder can be recycled.

Cell phones contain lead, copper, and antimony in sufficient quantities that they can be hazardous when mixed with household trash. That’s just one of the reasons they shouldn’t go into the trash! The other, of course, is that they also contain reusable materials. For instance, according to a report published by INFORM, Inc., there is enough gold in 200 cell phones to create a gold ring.

According to a study of cell phone life cycles published in the *International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment*, extending the use of your existing cell phone to 4 years could decrease the environmental impacts of the phone by 40%. Why? Simple—using the same phone

longer reduces the need to extract new resources, lowers emissions during manufacturing, and reduces energy use.

Learn more about cell phone use and recycling, as well as INFORM’s Secret Life Series, at <http://secret-life.org>.





Irvine single-family residents with curbside service have ongoing bulky item collection available year-round. Residents are entitled to two free pickups each year, with up to four large items per pickup. This is a special service and residents must call to schedule an appointment. Bulky items include large hard-to-handle items, such as furniture, mattresses, and appliances, as well as cathode ray tubes (computer monitors and TVs with "picture tubes"). For more information about the program or to schedule a bulky item pickup, call Waste Management's Customer Service Center at 949-642-1191.

Residents who live in apartments or other multi-family complexes should inquire with their property manager about bulky item service.



Irvine Ranch Water District periodically holds free residential landscape workshops for the public to promote water efficiency. Some of the workshop topics include how to water for plant health while lowering water bills, as well as landscape design basics. For more information on the workshops, visit IRWD's website at www.irwd.com/FreePrograms/workshops.php.



We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

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The views and statements of environmental organizations referenced in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the City of Irvine.



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Actor/activist to help encourage bottle and can recycling

In February, the California Department of Conservation (DOC) announced that Ed Begley, Jr., environmentalist and star of the HGTV series, *Living With Ed*, will help promote bottle and can recycling throughout California.

The partnership will feature the actor and environmental activist at various events around the state, speaking to local audiences and media about the importance of recycling beverage containers to save energy and reduce waste.

"We are thrilled to have Ed join us in our efforts to increase public awareness of the importance of recycling," said Bridgett Luther, director of the DOC.



Photo courtesy of Ed Begley, Jr.

"With his help, we can now reach a broader audience."

Many remember Begley from his recurring roles on the television programs *St. Elsewhere* and *Arrested Development*.

Start grasscycling this spring

Now is a great time to think about grasscycling your lawn clippings this year. Grasscycling, which is also called mulching, means letting your grass clippings drop onto the lawn when you mow,

remove the bag attachment from the mower and insert the "chute cover" (a safety device that covers the hole where the bag is normally attached). A regular mower may not chop the grass blades quite as small, so you might have to mow slightly more often.

Grasscycling is easier if you trim off no more than the top one-third of your grass on each mowing. If the grass is growing quickly, you may have to mow more than once a week. However, the small clippings will quickly begin to rot before the next mowing. Chopping off more than one-third of the grass blade is hard on the plants and leaves behind long clippings that take longer to break down.

In addition to providing moisture and nitrogen to your lawn and reducing your use of trash bags, grasscycling will also save time. If your lawn takes an hour to mow when you stop and bag the grass, it should only take about 40 minutes to mow when you grasscycle. Wouldn't you rather spend that extra time doing something other than pushing the mower?

If you would like more information about grasscycling, composting, and California-friendly gardening, contact the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Hotline at 714-708-1646.



rather than picking them up with the grass catcher or bagger. These grass clippings can provide your lawn with moisture, as well as nitrogen, which is a food that your lawn needs.

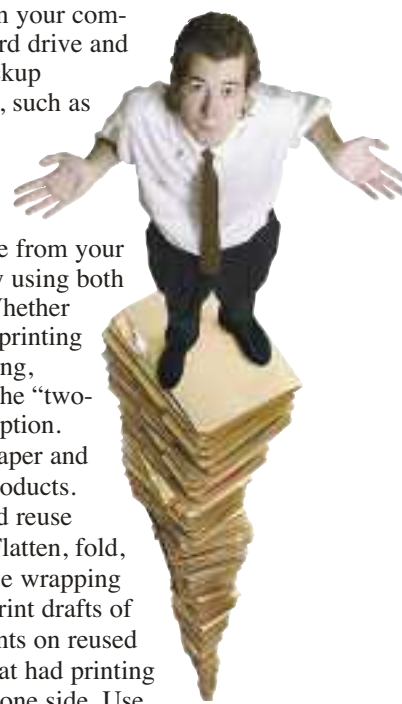
If you own a mulching mower, the mower is designed to chop the grass blades into tiny pieces and then drop them onto the mown grass. If you don't have a mulching mower, you can simply

On paper

Every year, we each use about 670 pounds of paper and paper products. That's the equivalent of about one sheet every 12 minutes! While that is a lot of paper, we have some good news. First, our use of paper has declined from about 735 pounds per person just a few years ago. Second, more than half of this paper, about 360 pounds per person per year, is now being recovered for recycling.

Here are some tips to reduce your paper use and increase your paper recycling:

- Use less paper by saving emails in electronic folders, bookmarking websites, and archiving documents on your computer hard drive and on a backup medium, such as a flash drive or CD.
- Get more use from your paper by using both sides. Whether you are printing or copying, choose the "two-sided" option.
- Reuse paper and paper products. Save and reuse boxes. Flatten, fold, and reuse wrapping paper. Print drafts of documents on reused paper that had printing on only one side. Use scrap paper and envelopes as notepaper around your home or office.
- Recycle more paper and paper products. Recycling paper reduces the demands on our forests and tree farms. In addition, making new paper products from recaptured paper uses less total energy and less water, requires less bleach, and results in fewer toxic releases of air and water pollutants.
- Buy recycled-content paper and paper products. We can help improve markets for our papers by seeking out recycled-content products, such as printer paper, stationery, notebooks and notebook paper, boxes, tissue products, and more.



You can learn more about paper use and recycling by visiting these websites: www.environmentaldefense.org/papercalculator/ and www.paperrecycles.org/recycling/index.html.

Remember to recycle!

Be sure that all of your recyclable containers and paper get recycled (and don't go into trash cans!). All of these materials can be recycled: newspapers; mixed paper; bulk mail; cardboard; cereal and gift boxes; magazines; phone books; aluminum cans; tin/steel cans; plastic bottles and jugs; glass food and beverage bottles and jars; and clean, bagged (not loose) plastic bags.

Extra yard waste?

Most residents with curbside service have been provided a green waste cart for collection of yard debris, such as grass clippings, prunings, and leaves. For more information about this service, call Waste Management's Customer Service Center at 949-642-1191.