



WESTERN PLACER WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

RECYCLING & DISPOSAL MADE EASY

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN PLACER WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

WINTER 2009

Trim Your Waste-Line & Your Budget This Holiday Season

Each year, Americans dispose of 25 percent more waste between Thanksgiving and New Year's than any other time of the year. This equates to approximately 25 million more tons of waste!

By taking simple steps to reduce waste, you can also save money this holiday season. Try some of the holiday tips outlined in this newsletter to begin reducing waste – and saving money – today. Make waste reduction one of your New Year's resolutions!

Did you know...?

- 38,000 miles of gift wrapping ribbon is disposed of each year – enough to tie a bow around the Earth!
- 4 million tons of gift-wrap and shopping bags are thrown away each year in the United States.
- Over 2.5 billion holiday cards are sold each year in the United States – enough to fill football field 10 stories high. By sending one less card we could save approximately 19 million pounds of paper – the equivalent of more than 160,000 trees.

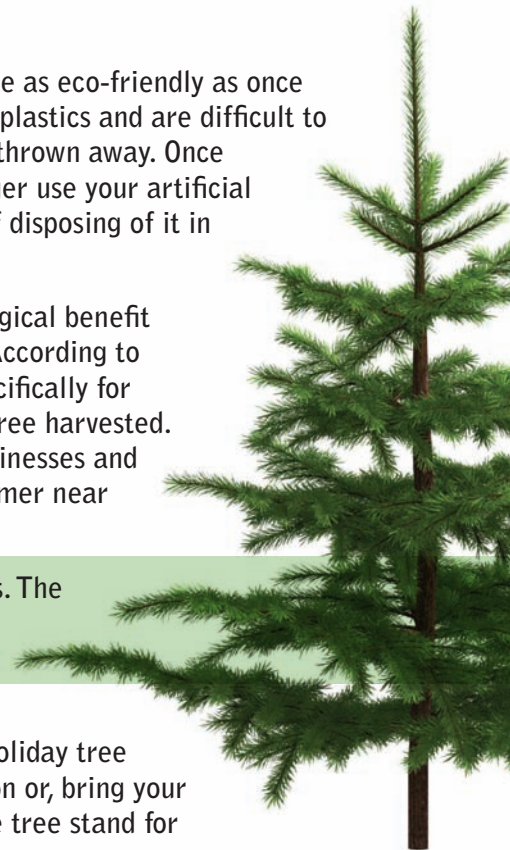
How Green is Your Evergreen?

Artificial trees, often considered the "green" alternative to real trees, may not be as eco-friendly as once thought. Artificial trees are often made from non-renewable, petroleum-based plastics and are difficult to recycle. On average, artificial trees are used for six to nine years before being thrown away. Once thrown away, the artificial trees could remain in a landfill for centuries. If you no longer use your artificial tree and it's still in good shape, consider donating it to your favorite charity instead of disposing of it in the garbage.

Unlike artificial trees, real trees are 100 percent biodegradable and provide an ecological benefit by absorbing carbon dioxide and other gases while producing oxygen during growth. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, real trees are generally grown on farms specifically for holiday use. To ensure continued supply, farmers plant up to three seedlings for each tree harvested. Purchasing a real holiday tree from a local farmer is a great way to support local businesses and can be a fun family activity. Visit www.christmastree.org/search.cfm to find a tree farmer near you.

Each year, more than 30 million real holiday trees are purchased in the United States. The WPWMA recycles nearly 100 percent of the holiday trees it receives at the MRF. Trees are chipped and used as mulch or as a fuel to generate electricity.

Start a new tradition by recycling your holiday tree! It's a simple way to keep it out of the landfill and ensure it is recycled. Check with your waste hauler or city to find holiday tree recycling opportunities in your area. Visit www.OneBigBin.com for contact information or, bring your tree directly to the WPWMA. Please be sure to remove all lights, decorations and the tree stand for recycling and do not place the tree in a plastic bag. Flocked trees cannot be recycled.



Services and Hours

MRF and Landfill

Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Weekends, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(916) 543-3960

HOLIDAY HOURS

Christmas Eve	7 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Christmas Day	7 a.m. – 11 a.m.
New Year's Eve	7 a.m. – 5 p.m.
New Year's Day	7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Buy-Back and Drop-Off Center

Accepts CRV beverage containers, other plastics, paper, cardboard and scrap metal
Monday- Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Weekends, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(916) 645-5230 x111

Compost is available for purchase.
Please call the Buy-Back Center for details and pricing.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

Daily, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(916) 645-5230 x4

Household hazardous wastes, such as paint, motor oil and filters, pesticides, and sharps (needles, syringes, lancets) are accepted free at the HHW facility from Placer County residents. Visit WPWMA.com for a complete list of acceptable HHW.

Give Green to Save Green

Gifts purchased at retail outlets often include extensive packaging that is thrown away shortly after the gift is opened. Great holiday gifts don't need to be costly or from a fancy store, instead put your skills to use and give home-made gifts or gifts with less packaging this year. Save money and reduce waste! Or, try these ideas to reduce your waste this holiday season:



- Donate old or unwanted items before the holidays – instead of throwing them away – to make room for new gifts.
- Use old newspaper or paper shopping bags to wrap gifts. Or, reuse gift bags instead of purchasing wrapping paper.
- Use your shredded paper as packing material instead of Styrofoam packing peanuts.
- Make a donation in honor of a friend or relative to their favorite charity.
- Send electronic greeting cards instead of mailing paper cards.
- Give gift cards instead of presents with a lot of packaging.
- Bake cookies as gifts.
- Include rechargeable batteries with electronic gifts.

Sharps Disposal

Senate Bill 1305 (Figueroa), enacted September 1, 2008, prohibits the disposal of sharps in the garbage. Home generated sharps include syringes, hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, lancets, and other devices that are used to penetrate the skin for the delivery of medication. Sharps are dangerous to the employees collecting and sorting your waste for recycling.

On average, sorters at the WPWMA's Materials Recovery Facility find nearly 350 pounds of improperly disposed of sharps in the trash each month! Improper disposal of sharps (and other hazardous wastes) puts sorters at risk and takes away from their ability to recover valuable recyclables. For proper, safe, and legal disposal, please place sharps in a tightly sealed, rigid container and drop them off at the WPWMA's HHW facility or the Auburn Transfer Station.

We can help

Sharps disposal containers are now available at no cost for Placer County residents. Visit the WPWMA or the One Big Bin booth at a local event to obtain a container, or call (530) 889-6846 to pick one up near you. Quantities are limited.

Recycling, Reduction & Reuse Made Easy

The WPWMA recently partnered with Placer County and its jurisdictions to launch the One Big Bin campaign to educate residents and businesses about the ease of recycling in Placer County. Our mission is to let those who live, work and play in Placer County know about one of its best kept secrets ... the easy and successful approach to recycling employed at the Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs).

There are two MRFs (pronounced "murf") in Placer County that receive and process residential and commercial garbage for recovery of recyclable materials such as cardboard, newspaper, mixed paper, plastics, wood, glass and metals. The WPWMA's MRF is located in Lincoln and is the larger of the two. The MRF receives approximately 1,000 tons of garbage every weekday. Last year, the WPWMA recovered enough recyclables to fill a football field nearly 400 feet high!



When it comes to the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle), the WPWMA has recycling covered. Want to do your part? Waste reduction and reuse are as important as recycling and are the first steps in actively managing our waste stream.

Try integrating one or more of these strategies into your daily life to save money and create less waste!

- Buy items in bulk instead of individually wrapped.
- Use reusable storage and beverage containers instead of sandwich bags and bottled water.
- Repair broken items instead of replacing them.
- Take your own cloth bags to the store rather than using plastic bags – most grocery stores offer credits for using your own bags.
- Use cloth towels instead of paper towels.
- Use a reusable coffee filter instead of paper filters.
- Cancel unwanted catalogs and junk mail.
 - If each household cancelled 10 mail order catalogs it would reduce trash by 3.5 pounds per person, per year. (If everyone did this, the stack of cancelled catalogs would be 2,000 miles high!)

Visit www.OneBigBin.com for more easy waste reduction and reuse tips. It's good for you, your pocketbook and the environment!

Contacting Your Waste Hauler



Auburn Placer Disposal Service

(530) 885-3735

Serves Auburn, Loomis, Rocklin and the unincorporated areas of western Placer County

City of Roseville

(916) 774-5780

City of Lincoln

(916) 645-8576



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