


A Newsletter of



City of Arcadia
www.ci.arcadia.ca.us
Waste Management
 San Gabriel/Pomona Valley
www.wmarcacia.com
 800-266-7551
Winter 2012



Help prevent stormwater pollution

Arcadia's storm drain system is part of a vast network of underground channels that are designed to carry excess rainwater and irrigation runoff from streets directly into the ocean to avoid flooding. Unlike our sewer system, stormwater bypasses any treatment or decontamination process and therefore carries all the pollutants it picks up – animal waste, litter, fertilizer, pesticides, and automobile fluids – all the way to the ocean. It is everyone's responsibility to make sure drains and waterways are free of pollutants.



- Here are some things you can do to help:
- Don't put anything into the storm drain but rainwater.
 - Throw litter into the trash can, not into the streets or onto the sidewalks.
 - Pick up after your pet by bagging animal waste and placing it into a trash container.
 - Properly dispose of leaves. Do not blow, sweep, hose, or rake leaves into the street, gutter, or storm drains.
 - Recycle your used motor oil.
 - Fix any leaks on your car.
 - Use yard waste as mulch or add it to your backyard compost bin.

- Try not to use harsh abrasives or toxic chemicals around the house. Select water-based products instead of solvent-based products.
- Be smart when applying pesticides and fertilizers. Do not apply them before it rains. Not only will you lose most of the chemicals through runoff, but you will also be harming the environment.
- Report illegal dumping by calling the Public Works Services Department at 626-256-6554.

Be smart with sharps

Did you know that it is illegal to dispose of hypodermic needles, lancets, syringes, and similar medical instruments, collectively known as "sharps," in your household trash? Sharps must be disposed of properly to prevent injuries and the spread of germs and debilitating diseases.

The City of Arcadia offers a free 1-quart sharps waste disposal container. Used sharps, such as needles, syringes, IV needles, lancets, and test strips, are to be placed inside this leak-proof and puncture-resistant container for safe storage. Once the container is full, seal it and place it into the postage prepaid container. Then, simply take it to the post office or give it to the mail carrier. The container will be delivered to a medical waste processing facility for proper disposal.

To obtain a free sharps disposal container, you will need to show proof of Arcadia residency through either a State-issued identification or a utility bill. For more information or to request a sharps container, please call the Public Works Services Department at 626-256-6554.



California legislation calls for expansion in recycling

A landmark piece of legislation has just been enacted that will greatly reduce the amount of waste entering our landfills. Assembly Bill (AB) 341 sets a new waste goal of 75% diversion from landfills by 2020. AB 341 also addresses commercial waste producers, such as businesses and apartment complexes. Mandatory commercial recycling will help California achieve this goal.

As single-family residential recycling has grown in the past 20 years, small businesses and multifamily complexes have remained largely out of the loop. Now, as

a result of AB 341, apartments and other multifamily complexes with five or more units and businesses which produce four or more cubic yards of waste per week will be required to recycle. Recycling programs must be in place by July 1, 2012.

The City of Arcadia is currently working with the City's permitted waste hauler to formulate a commercial recycling plan. Watch for details over the next few months. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Services Department at 626-256-6554.

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Recycle used motor oil

Did you know that used motor oil never wears out? It gets dirty and can be recycled, cleaned, and used again. Pouring motor oil into trash cans, onto the ground, or into

storm drains is illegal and pollutes soil, groundwater, streams, rivers, and our ocean. That's why it is important to properly dispose of used oil. Motor oil and oil filters can be dropped off at any Certified Used Oil Collection Center for proper storage and recycling.

When you do your part and take your used oil to a certified center for recycling, you are protecting the environment and conserving valuable resources.

These are the Certified Used Oil Collection Centers located in the City of Arcadia:

- C & L Collision Center, 132 Las Tunas Dr., 626-445-6630
- Firestone Store, 1500 S. Baldwin Ave., 626-446-2164
- Jiffy Lube, 5 W. Huntington Dr., 626-446-7980
- O'Reilly Auto Parts, 37 Las Tunas Dr., 626-447-0748
- RFG Oil Inc., 3 E. Duarte Rd., 858-273-8539



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Fleece season

This time of year, fleece is everywhere—sweatpants, pullovers, jackets, vests, gloves, scarves, blankets, and more. We are so used to seeing fleece during the cool weather that you might be surprised to know that the first fleece product wasn't sold until the early 1980s. By 1993, some of that fleece was being made with post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. Today, many plastic bottles become fleece and other polyester products.

To turn bottles into fleece, used bottles are sorted by color, cleaned, chopped, and ground. The flake plastic is then melted, reformulated, and turned into chips. The chips are heated and sent through a machine called a spinneret (much like a showerhead) to become yarn. A knitting machine turns the yarn into cloth that can be dyed, textured, and finished. A process called napping gives fleece its famously soft, fuzzy feel.

"How It's Made" on Discovery Science Channel has a feature on how fleece is made. Watch it on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/YHHqFwDhGTM>.

FAST FACTS

From holiday to home

The 74-foot Norway Spruce decorating New York's Rockefeller Center will come down on January 7. When it does, it will be turned into lumber which will be donated to Habitat for Humanity. Since 2007, the lumber from the Rockefeller Center tree has been donated each year to Habitat's home-building efforts. Read more and watch a video at "From Shade to Shelter" in *Habitat World* online: <http://magazine.habitat.org/stories/shade-shelter>.



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As simple as soap

Derreck Kayongo, a humanitarian relief expert and former refugee, knows firsthand about the challenges faced by displaced

persons—the daily struggle for food and fresh water, and the diseases that result from lack of soap and clean water. When he learned that American hotels discard about 2.6 million bars of soap a day, Derreck and his wife and father began the Global Soap Project. The project accepts donated bars of soap from hotels, reprocesses and remolds it, and then donates the soap to existing relief organizations that serve refugees, orphans, and disaster victims. Learn more about the Global Soap Project at www.globalsoap.org.



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Constant connection

If it seems like you are always online, it may be true. CTIA—The Wireless Association conducts a semi-annual survey of wireless subscriber connections, which is the total number of devices, such as cell phones, smartphones, tablets, and laptops, that people have connected on cellular networks. In 2011, for the first time, the number of connections at 322.9 million exceeded the population of the U.S., which is about 312.7 million.

WellHome has created an infographic about electronic waste — where it comes from and what happens to it. Check it out at www.wellhome.com/blog/2011/05/electronic-waste-where-does-it-all-end-up.



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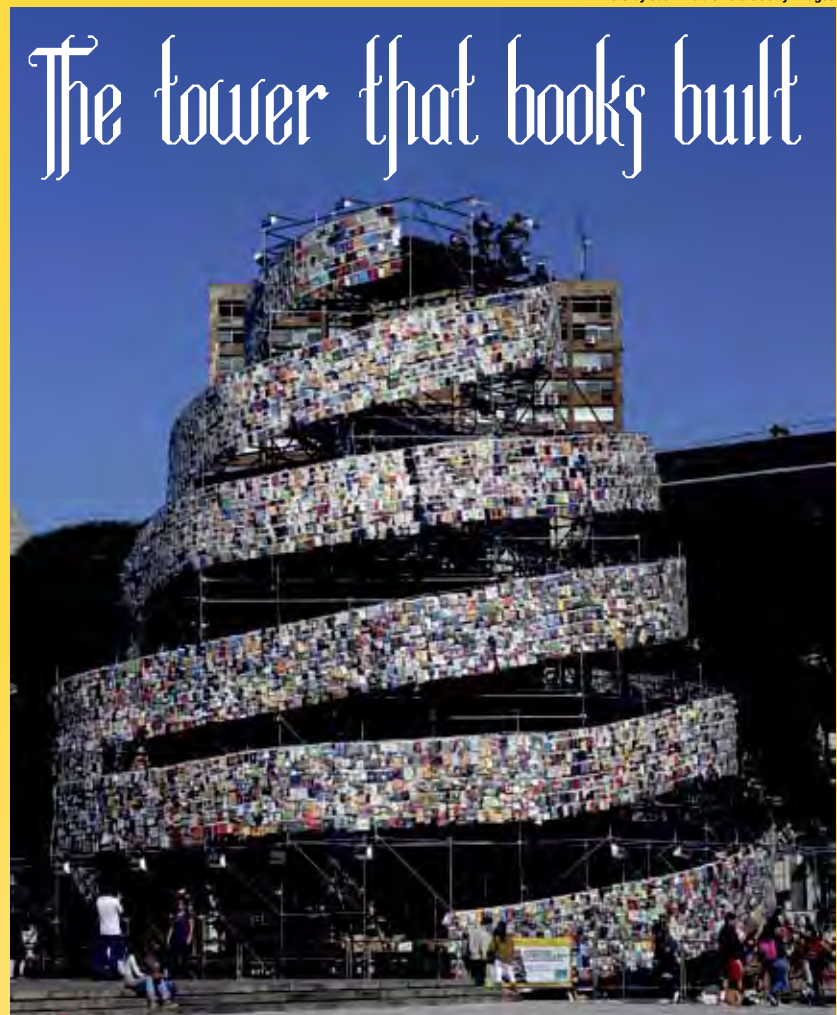


Photo by Juan Mabromata | Getty Images

The tower that books built

During May 2011, Argentinean artist Marta Minujín created a seven-story tower of books in Buenos Aires. Entitled "The Tower of Babel," the display included 30,000 books in hundreds of languages. The books were donated by embassies, libraries, and others around the world and ranged from children's books to comics to poetry to philosophy. A metal ramp allowed visitors to climb the tower, examining the books and enjoying the city's skyline. A soundtrack featured Minujín repeating the word, "book," over and over in many different languages. At the end of the installation, some books were given to visitors, but the majority were donated to create the city's first multilingual library.



Renew your commitment to the 3R's

It's the time of year when we're thinking about making things better—ourselves, our families, our homes, and our budgets. As you're making your resolutions, give some thought to the 3R's:

Reduce

- Before you buy, ask yourself these questions: Do I need this? Do I already have something like this? Do I need something new right now? Does it have too much packaging? What will I do with this when I no longer need it?
- Stop making "wish lists." Oftentimes, the items on a wish list are things you want but don't necessarily need. Whether you make them online, write them on a scrap of paper, or keep them in your head, wish lists keep you thinking about what you don't have—often creating dissatisfaction with the things you do have.

Reuse

- Start your exercise, weight-loss, or other self-improvement program on borrowed or shared equipment. If you stick with the program or hobby, you can purchase your own supplies and equipment later, if you need them. If and when that time comes, remember to look for secondhand equipment.
- "Shop" at home. You probably have books you haven't read, movies you haven't watched, games you haven't played, kitchen gadgets you haven't tried, and supplies for hobbies you haven't started. Put them to use now.
- Find your library card. The library is a great resource for no-cost entertainment. Look for books, magazines, music, movies, and more. Ask your library about downloads for e-readers and MP3 players, too.
- Scan your pantry shelves. We all have canned and boxed goods that we purchased but never got around to using. Find recipes for the supplies you already have on hand. Also, pull out food that your family won't eat. Check the "use by" or "best by" dates and donate unexpired items to a local food pantry or other non-profit organization.

Recycle

- Recycle. You do this by shopping for groceries and other products with recycling in mind. Know what you can recycle and choose products packaged in those materials.
- Collect recyclables and recycle them!
- Commit to recycled-content products.

Successful recycling programs depend on having manufacturers use your recyclables. If you need a new fleece vest or jacket, look for fleece made from recycled soft drink bottles. If you need printer paper, select post-consumer recycled-content paper.



Recycling means jobs

In 2008, with the nation recycling and composting about one-third of its discards, nearly 732,000 Americans worked in jobs directly related to recycling and composting of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris. A recent study by the Tellus Institute and Sound Resource Management concludes that increasing the nationwide recycling rate to 75% by 2030 could add as many as 1.5 million more recycling and composting jobs to the U.S. economy. In other words, every percentage point of improvement in our national recycling rate could lead to 30,000-35,000 new jobs.

In addition to job creation, the report also explores potential reductions in harmful emissions, such as carbon dioxide. Increasing the national recycling rate to 75% would be equivalent to removing 50 million cars from our roadways.

The final report, "More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S.," is available online at www.recyclingworkscampaign.org.



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Gift cards GALORE



Gift cards are big business. In fact, by most estimates, gift card sales for 2011 will top out at around \$91 billion in the U.S. At \$25 per card, which is the most common gift card value sold, that is a whopping 3.64 billion cards.

While 95% of American adults have given or received a gift card, only about 20% choose to refill cards after the value has been expended. This leaves a lot of depleted cards headed to the trash. How often have you had a clerk ask, "Since this is empty, do you want me to throw it away?"

Gift cards are just one type of wallet-sized plastic card. About 17 billion total cards are produced to be used by American consumers each year, including gift, loyalty, discount, membership, debit, store charge, and credit cards. As a result, as much as 75 million pounds of plastic cards, most of it PVC, are discarded each year.

At least one company, Earthworks in Ohio, has begun to accept used plastic cards for recycling. The cards are recycled in a closed-loop process, with old cards melted and turned into the plastic sheets used to make new cards. Individuals can mail in empty or expired cards. However, Earthworks hopes to work with stores, hotels, and other businesses that would collect customer cards and send in larger quantities for recycling. To learn more about Earthworks, visit www.earthworkssystem.com.

Ask retailers whether they will accept your depleted cards for recycling. Other waste-reducing ideas include refilling existing gift cards and giving virtual or electronic gift certificates instead. Also, be sure to use up the funds on your gift cards. The average amount left on cards is \$2.30, which adds up to about \$5 billion in unspent value each year!

QUOTES REQUOTED

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.

Marian Wright Edelman, 1939-



1ST AND GREEN AT SUPER BOWL XLVI

When you think of the Super Bowl, you probably think of football, commercials, and "tailgating" food. However, look behind the scenes at any Super Bowl since 1994 and you'd see a growing list of environmental initiatives. The 2012 Super Bowl to be held in February is no different. Working with the NFL, the local host committee has planned recycling, food recovery, donating supplies and equipment after the event, planting trees, and a sports equipment/book donation project involving local kids. Learn more at www.1standgreen.com.



Paperless? Not anytime soon!



A couple of decades ago, Americans were assured that computers would usher in a paperless society. Although computers and other electronic devices have certainly replaced some paper, our use of paper has continued to be robust, with over 81.2 million tons of paper and cardboard generated in 2010. The good news is that our paper recycling rate hit an all-time high in the United States, increasing to 63.5% of all paper and cardboard used.

Making paper requires a lot of water and a great deal of energy. Using recovered paper reduces both water and energy needs, but it doesn't eliminate them. While going totally paperless isn't possible yet, you can take steps to reduce the amount of paper that you use. Here are a few simple ideas:

- Don't print email messages or web pages. Instead, read them on screen. If you'll need them again, put the emails into a folder and bookmark the web-sites.
- Make double-sided copies whenever possible.
- Pay your bills online instead of using paper checks and envelopes. Consider having your bills emailed to you, too.
- Use the back side of paper as scratch paper.
- Choose recycled-content paper. Look for "post-consumer recycled-content paper" on the label.
- Recycle paper and boxes in your blue cart. You can recycle brochures, catalogs, copier and printer paper, crayon drawings, envelopes, junk mail, magazines, newspaper and inserts, office paper, paper bags, and telephone books. You can also recycle cardboard, cereal boxes, food containers, tissue paper, and gift boxes. Plus, we even accept paper fiber egg cartons and carryout drink holders.

Powered by batteries

Americans purchase nearly 3 billion batteries every year for toys, remote controls, cell phones, laptop computers, and tools. That's about 10 batteries for every person in the United States. Look around. Have you used your cell phone today? It uses a battery. What about a remote control? Yes, it's battery-powered, too. Have you used a laptop, tablet, or e-reader? All of those use batteries. As you can see, many of the things you enjoy every day rely on the electrical energy provided by batteries.

Many of these items have "built-in" batteries, so you just attach a power cord to recharge them. Others use household batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt. You can buy rechargeable household batteries, which are removed from the item when they are "dead" and charged in a recharging unit that you purchase where the batteries are sold.

According to the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, rechargeable batteries can be recharged up to 1,000 times and last from two to five years. To ensure a long life, follow recharging instructions carefully.

When your rechargeable batteries are "spent," meaning they will no longer hold a charge, be sure to recycle them. Residents can now easily recycle their old household



batteries in Arcadia by dropping them off at the Library, City Hall, Community Center, Public Works Services Center, or Radio Shack, located at 1435 S. Baldwin Ave. Batteries are also accepted at the Los Angeles County Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Drop-Offs; for details, visit www.CleanLA.com or call 888-CLEAN-LA.

For other rechargeable battery drop-off sites, visit www.rbr.org and enter your ZIP code.

Remember—batteries should never go into your curbside carts!

Too Toxic to Trash



Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronic waste (E-Waste) at the L.A. County HHW and E-Waste Collection events. These drop-off events are held on Saturdays throughout the county and are open to all residents. There is no charge to drop off HHW or E-Waste at these events.

E-Waste is collected curbside as a "bulky item" by Waste Management at no additional cost. Just call Waste Management at 800-266-7551 on Monday for E-Waste curbside collection on Wednesday. No HHW is accepted at curbside.

There is also a permanent collection center that is open year-round to accept HHW and E-Waste. The closest S.A.F.E. Collection Center is the Los Angeles-Glendale Treatment Plant, located at 4600 Colorado Boulevard. It is open Saturdays and Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

HHW and E-Waste are simply too toxic to trash. When these items are mixed with household trash, workers can be injured by spills and chemical reactions. In addition, chemicals can pollute our water and soil. HHW includes automotive fluids, lawn and garden products, household cleaners, and home improvement products, such as paint, brush cleaner, and adhesives. Also collected at HHW events and facilities are batteries and fluorescent tubes and bulbs, including CFLs. E-Waste includes computers, TVs, cell phones, e-readers and tablets, DVD players, iPods/MP3 players, and similar items. Keep these out of the trash!

For more information and additional locations, call 888-CLEAN-LA or visit www.CleanLA.com.



Arcadia residents can pick up a free reusable grocery bag at the Public Works Services Center located at 11800 Goldring Road (limit of one free reusable grocery bag per Arcadia household, while supplies last).



Holiday trees will be collected from **December 28, 2011 through January 11, 2012** on your scheduled trash collection day. Tinsel, garland, ornaments, lights, other decorations, and stands must be removed from the trees. If your tree is taller than 6 feet, please cut it in half to create two shorter pieces. Flocked trees will also be accepted but cannot be recycled.

***We want your suggestions,
questions and comments!***

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