



Last February, Allied Waste—now merged with Republic Services—donated \$10,000 to support the work of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC). Holding the giant check are Sue Rainey, CCCSWA Board member and Mayor of Walnut Creek, and CPSC chairman Rob D’Arcy.

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

Collaborative Solutions for Problem Discards

Many products that serve us well during their useful life can create health and environmental hazards once they become waste. For example, used medical needles tossed in the trash can injure and infect garbage workers. Needles and other “sharps” are illegal in the trash, but few convenient collection programs exist.

A strategy known as Product Stewardship offers solutions for problem discards like sharps. “The idea is to share the responsibility for a product among those who make, sell, use and dispose of it,” explains Lois Courchaine, who serves on the California Product Stewardship Council’s Board of Directors on behalf of CCCSWA. “This puts manufacturers in charge of designing take-back programs for their products,” she adds. The results are more efficient collection systems and even greener products, because a less toxic and recycling-friendly design is in the manufacturer’s own interest.

California lawmakers are currently discussing legislation requiring product stewardship for sharps and other hazardous products. For more information visit www.calcps.org.

Ask the AUTHORITY

Dear Authority,



“I want to redeem my bottles and cans, but the recycling center I used to go to is gone. What happened?”

— *Mystified in Moraga*

Dear Mystified,

I don’t blame you for being confused! Buy-back centers used to offer a convenient way to cash in the deposit on beverage containers, while funds from unredeemed cans and bottles helped pay to operate the centers.

But then came California’s budget crisis. Strapped for money, the state borrowed from the container fund and has not yet repaid those loans. As a result, many centers have had to close, including several in Central Contra Costa County.

But here’s the good news: Last March, following a lawsuit by a coalition of recyclers, state legislators promised to repay the loans. So—your favorite buy-back center may reopen soon! Meanwhile, you can redeem your cans and bottles at the Walnut Creek Recycling Center, operated by CCCSWA and independent from the container fund. The Center is located at 480 Lawrence Way in Walnut Creek.

For more information about the center or to find currently operating buy-back locations near you, visit www.wastediversion.org.

Signed,

The Authority

Do you have a question for us?
Please send it to authority@wastediversion.org.

GARDEN PARTIES AND MOVIE NIGHTS

Sustainable Moraga Makes Being Green Fun

Sustainable Moraga may be best known for pioneering the battery recycling drop-off program—now managed by CCCSWA—but that’s just one of the group’s many initiatives. Currently 47 members strong, Sustainable Moraga is “working to preserve the environment and make Moraga a better place to live, through hands-on, local actions,” according to President Bill Durkin. “And while we’re at it, we’re having a great time,” he adds with a smile.

Proof of that is the Moraga Community Garden, an oasis of fruit trees, vegetable plots and flower patches, sustainably tended and harvested by group members. The best part: each full moon during the summer, the garden’s pizza oven is fired up for a festive potluck party.

Not into gardening? Maybe the “Green Rheem Movie Night” is for you. The monthly event features local wine and appetizers, and a green-themed movie. For more information on Sustainable Moraga and their activities visit www.sustainablemoraga.org.



Green community groups are thriving in Contra Costa County! To join or start one in your area, visit the Sustainable Contra Costa Network at www.sustainablecoco.org.

LOCAL BISTRO SERVES UP GREEN PRACTICES

Eco-Friendly To-Go Containers

Food on the go can be a godsend in our busy lives, but the packaging it often comes in might be more of a curse. Topping the list: disposable plastic foam containers. While they’re cheap and functional, their negative impact on our health and the environment lingers long after we’ve enjoyed the last bite of our take-out meal.



The Sunrise Bistro in Walnut Creek has stepped up to the proverbial plate, offering its customers “greener” alternatives to plastic foam cups and clamshells. To-go orders and leftovers are wrapped in paper packaging, aluminum foil or those types of plastic containers that are accepted in the local curbside recycling program.

Owner Cindy Gershen is proud to do her part for the environment. “Here at Sunrise we promote healthy eating choices, so it only makes sense to also use take-out containers that support the well-being of people and the planet,” she explains.

Diversions

CCCSWA 925-906-1801
fax: 925-906-1805 web: www.wastediversion.org
email: authority@wastediversion.org

GARBAGE:
ALLIED WASTE SERVICES 925-603-1144
fax: 925-685-8153 web: www.awsgcc.com
For questions concerning billing, special cleanups, vacation hold requests, computer & TV collection, new service or your blue garbage cart.

RECYCLING:
VALLEY WASTE MANAGEMENT 925-935-8900
fax: 925-935-1617 web: www.valleywaste.com
For questions concerning the service of your burgundy recycling or green yard clippings carts, to request motor oil recycling containers, for recycling cleanups or information on the Walnut Creek Recycling Center.

CONTRA COSTA RECYCLING HOTLINE . . . 1-800-750-4096

HOME COMPOSTING/GRASSCYCLING . . 925-906-1801x306

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 1-800-646-1431

REUSE AND CLEANUP DAYS:
Reuse (Day) questions:
Pacific Rim Recycling 1-800-999-6067
Cleanup (Day) questions:
Allied Waste Services 925-603-1144



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