

A Quarterly Newsletter of



The City of Irvine
(949) 724-7669

Waste Management of Orange County
(949) 642-1191



Summer 2010



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Go “Green” this 4th of July

Did you know you could go “green” this 4th of July? The City of Irvine’s Environmental Programs website features a special section on how to “green” your 4th of July. The web page offers tips on reducing your waste by using sustainable products, such as reusable plates, cups, and utensils or compostable plates and utensils, by buying locally grown and produced food, and by using organic condiments.

You might even reduce your impact on the environment by enjoying public fireworks displays or using old-fashioned noisemakers from your local party store in lieu of family fireworks. And, don’t forget to recycle your bottles and cans!

To learn more about “greening” your 4th of July, please visit www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms and click on the button on the right for Eco-Holidays.

Waste Management Launches WM Bagster

Service provides contractors and homeowners a flexible solution for disposal of construction debris, yard waste, and household garbage

Waste Management of Orange County recently announced the availability of WM Bagster, an integrated service that provides homeowners and contractors an affordable, responsible, and convenient solution for home improvement projects. WM Bagster combines a high-capacity polypropylene bag with a flat-fee pickup and disposal service, providing a flexible solution for projects too small to require a full-sized steel dumpster.

WM Bagster, available at a number of retail locations including Lowe’s, Home Depot, and Ace Hardware, is a patent-pending 3 cubic yard polypropylene bag, measuring 8’ long, 4’ wide and 2.5’ tall. Customers pay for the Bagster at the point of purchase. The suggested retail price is \$29.95, and a full list of retail locations is available at www.thebagster.com.

The Bagster will hold up to 3,300 pounds of various materials, including home renovation cleanup debris, landscape debris, green waste, construction and demolition debris, recyclables, or other such items. Prohibited materials, including household hazardous waste items and liquids, are not accepted.

“WM Bagster provides a simple and convenient service for contractors or ho-

meowners who need more than a bin but may not need a full dumpster,” said David Ross, director of community and municipal relations for Waste Management of Orange County. “With so many homeowners tackling renovation, moving, and cleanup projects themselves, we wanted to make sure this service was as user-friendly as possible. Customers can get started on projects quickly, use the bag for as long as they want, then schedule a prompt pickup knowing we will handle their waste responsibly.”

After placing the bag in a convenient location and filling it with construction debris, yard waste, or any other non-hazardous materials, customers can schedule a pickup



online at www.thebagster.com or over the phone at 1-877-789-BAGS (2247) for a flat fee. Once the pickup is scheduled, Waste Management will pick up the bag within three business days.

More information about WM Bagster is available at www.thebagster.com.

Environmental Programs e-Newsletter

Irvine residents and businesses can receive the City of Irvine’s Environmental Programs e-Newsletter via email. The e-Newsletter highlights new environmental programs that the City is implementing, as well as providing tips and resources for living and doing business in a natural and sustainable way. The e-Newsletter includes environmental topics such as recycling, green building, energy conservation, water quality, and Zero Waste.

Residents will get tips on reducing waste, learn creative ways to green holiday celebrations, discover rebates, and much more. Business owners

will be provided resources for greening their businesses and will learn how other businesses are employing sustainable business practices to protect the environment.

In addition, the e-Newsletter will reduce the environmental impact of producing print materials, thus promoting the City’s Zero Waste Resolution.

To receive the *Irvine Environmental Programs e-Newsletter*, a resident or business may sign up by visiting www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms. Simply click on “Sign up for e-Newsletter” at the top right to stay informed about living green.



Think Clean, Green and Global!

Mark your calendar for the Irvine Global Village Festival on Saturday, October 2, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The City of Irvine is proud to be an environmental steward and promote eco-friendly practices. The Irvine Global Village Festival supports this effort in a variety of ways. First, the Festival reuses festival shirts, banners, and signage. Second, environmentally focused practices and products are a priority, with new elements added annually. In addition, the Festival program will be printed on recycled paper utilizing soy-based ink, water stations will be available throughout the festival area to reduce the need for plastic water bottles, and recycling containers will be available for guests, staff,

and volunteers.

These are some of the other eco-friendly plans for the festival:

- Food Service – Plastic plates, cups, and utensils will be recycled.
- Napkins – 100% recyclable paper products
- Reusable Water Bottles – Molded from 60-70% recycled HDPE (high-density polyethylene) plastic. HDPE is BPA-free.
- Green Transportation – Take the iShuttle from off-site parking or bike to the Irvine Global Village Festival!



Food, glorious food

Each year, Americans throw away about 27% of the food they purchase and bring home. When added to unusable food from farms, factories, and stores, food waste tops a whopping 100 billion pounds! And waste isn't the only result — a 2009 study found that a quarter of U.S. water consumption and over 300 million barrels of oil go into producing and distributing food that ends up in landfills.

Annually, food waste comprises about 12.7% of municipal trash, or about 200 pounds per person per year. A family of four disposes of \$590 worth of edible food each year.

Yet, unlike containers, paper products, and yard trimmings, very little food is recovered. Only about 2.5% is recovered, either for use or for composting.

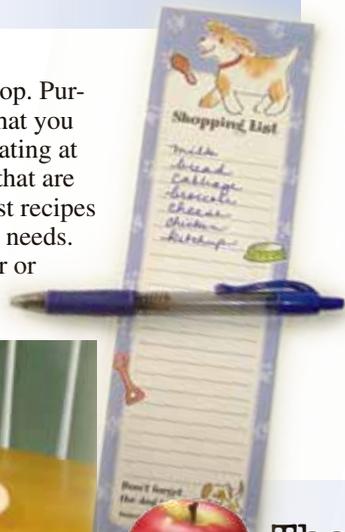
At home, you can reduce your food waste by using the 3 R's — Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle:

- Reduce your food waste at home. Make a list before you shop. Purchase only the amount of food that you need for the meals you will be eating at home. Avoid exotic ingredients that are needed for a single recipe. Adjust recipes to make the amount your family needs. Store leftovers in the refrigerator or freezer.



Most food in the U.S. travels between 1,500 and 2,000 miles before being eaten.

— Iowa State University



The average American farmer receives about 20 cents of every dollar spent on food. But when customers buy directly from the farm, the farmer gets the whole dollar.

— University of Missouri



- Reduce food waste at restaurants. If portions are large, share a full order with your companion. When you are full, put leftovers into a carry-out container. Better yet, bring your own reusable container from home and put leftovers into it. Remember to eat the leftovers soon!
- Freeze food for future use. If you bought too many carrots, you can chop them up and freeze them. They'll be ready to toss into a nice soup next winter.

- Share unwanted food with friends and co-workers. Do you have leftover birthday cake? Invite a neighbor over for a slice or take the extra to work.
- Donate unneeded food products to local food banks and other charitable organizations. Go through your non-perishable boxed and canned goods regularly. If an item has been sitting in your pantry for six months, you probably aren't going to use it before the expiration date. Give it to someone who will use it.
- Give away unwanted produce. If you have a garden, share nature's bounty with friends, neighbors, and co-workers. If you purchased too much produce or your family just didn't like the plums, give the items away before they rot.
- Compost your food scraps. You can compost fruit and vegetable scraps, as well as bread, pasta, and grains, in your backyard compost pile. Bury the food about 10" below the surface to discourage unwanted visitors. You can also compost food scraps in a vermicompost (worm composting) bin indoors or an in-ground food composter outdoors.



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In the U.S., agricultural imports are rising twice as fast as exports. Over the past two decades, imports of fruit, vegetables, and grains increased by more than 100%. Today, the typical American meal contains ingredients from at least five countries outside the U.S.

— U.S. Department of Agriculture

Cutting back on campus

A study of an all-you-can-eat campus dining hall found a significant decrease in edible food waste by making one small change—taking away large plastic trays. These trays allow students to carry all of their food selections at one time. While inedible, compostable waste stayed steady during the study, the amount of edible food waste dropped by about 30%. Students could return for more food as many times as they wished. However, removing the tray kept students from taking more food on their first trip than they would be able to eat. "Trayless trials" at other colleges have yielded similar outcomes.

Results of this study, which was conducted by Andy Sarjahanian, Elena L. Serranob, and Rick Johnson, were published in the January 2009 edition of the *Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition*.



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Learn more!

www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/materials/organics/food/index.htm – Find information on food scraps and how to reduce, reuse, and recycle them at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's food waste site.

www.leanpath.com – A website devoted to food waste reduction in the food service industry, the site includes a blog, "Food Waste Focus," and an e-newsletter, "Food Waste Flyer."

www.localharvest.org – This site is a national, easily searchable database for local food available from farms, farmers markets, restaurants, grocery stores, and other sources. You can also search by type of food.

www.slowfoodusa.org – An international movement, Slow Food works to link the pleasure of food with a commitment to community and the environment.

www.wastedfood.com – Jonathan Bloom's site is part blog and part call to action to reduce food waste and hunger.

FAST FACTS

Couch abandonment

A recent survey found that millions of Americans will abandon or leave behind large furniture on their next move. In this situation, one resident's trash may not be the next resident's treasure!



© Jordan Rusev | Dreamstime.com

Rather than abandon perfectly good furniture or appliances that you don't want or can't take with you, make arrangements to sell or donate them. List them for sale in the local paper or online through a service such as Craigslist.com or AmericanListed.com. To donate, contact friends or charitable organizations. If transportation is a problem, ask whether pickup service is available.

If the furniture or large appliance is worn-out or broken, contact us about proper disposal.

Trashy TV

You've probably heard someone say, "Everything on TV is trash." We have a feeling they didn't mean the kind of trash you might find on TV today. On cable shows like "Dirty Jobs," "Hoarders," "Mission: Organization," "Hoarding: Buried Alive," and "Wa\$ted," trash and recycling take center stage. Even a couple episodes of "Undercover Boss" focused on waste.

In a recent issue of *Waste & Recycling News*, "Dirty Jobs" host Mike Rowe said, "Our focus is more on people and work, but the environment is a factor in virtually every segment, and recycling is quite possibly the biggest recurring theme."

Rather than watching re-runs this summer, check out some of the trashy shows on TV. You'll be surprised and probably a little grossed-out, but you won't look at waste the same way again!



"Hoarding: Buried Alive" is one of the shows that focuses on waste. (Photo courtesy of Discovery Communications, Inc.)

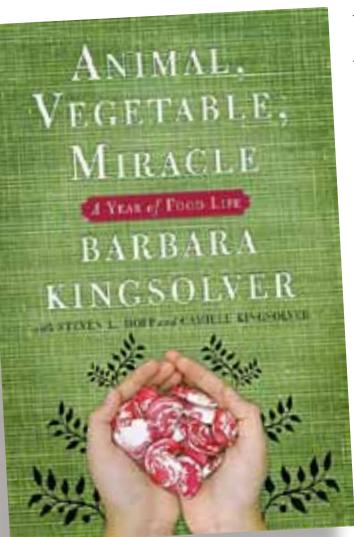
Targeting recyclables

Nationwide, the 1,740 Target stores now offer customers a recycling station for plastic bags, MP3 players, cell phones, ink cartridges, and beverage containers. This is Target's first large-scale effort to offer customer recycling. Previously, Target's reuse and recycling efforts were mostly behind the scenes. For instance, Target stores reused 437 million garment hangers and recycled 935 million pounds of cardboard in 2008.

With this program, Target joins many grocery and electronics stores in offering recycling for some of the products they distribute. Look for – and ask about – recycling programs where you shop!



Local for a year



What happens when one American family decides to get its food from nearby farms and its own backyard? The book, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver with Steven L. Hopp and Camille Kingsolver, explores this journey through planting, harvesting, and preserving. To learn more, find recipes, or learn about other families' efforts, visit www.animalvegetablemiracle.com.

North of the border, Canadians Alisa Smith and J.B. MacKinnon took a similar journey, which they chronicle in *Plenty: Eating*

Locally on the 100-Mile Diet. You can learn more about their experiences at www.100milediet.org.

Green and gorgeous

Choosing products that are better for the environment doesn't mean sacrificing style. From purses to glassware, clever entrepreneurs are making treasures from our trash.

Several companies are taking car parts, including license plates, tires, and seatbelt strapping, used billboards, metal pull-tabs, and discarded wrappers to make purses. Because used materials are made to fashion the purses, many of the patterns are unrepeatable. You'll find these unique bags at gift shops, as well as at online stores, such as www.ecoist.com and www.niokagreenstore.com.

The Green Glass Company takes used drink bottles and turns them into beautiful glassware. Green Glass began with a unique wine bottle-to-goblet conversion process to fashion functional and eye-catching wineglasses. That has led to other products, including a new line of tumblers made from soft drink and beer bottles. The company's designs turn ordinary bottles into extraordinary glasses, pitchers, and vases. To see Green Glass products, which are sold in gift shops as well as online, visit www.greenglass.com.



Green Glass makes these tumblers from Boylan soda bottles.

Candy and gum wrappers were folded and woven to create this purse.

QUOTES REQUOTED



Photo credit: Annie Griffiths

I can plant something as an act of faith in time itself, a vow that we will, sure enough, have a fall and a winter this year, to be followed again by spring

Maybe life doesn't get any better than this, or any worse, and what we get is just what we're willing to find: small wonders, where they grow.

Barbara Kingsolver, 1955–
Small Wonders
American author



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One Change

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? Here's an idea—a reusable coffee mug! This year, Americans will carry out 23 billion paper cups filled with coffee and other hot drinks. If you buy one cup of coffee per week, you could avoid 52 disposable cups, lids, and sleeves by carrying your own mug. If you buy one cup of carry-out coffee per work day, you could reduce your waste by 250 disposable cups, lids, and sleeves. If you buy two cups of carry-out coffee every day...well, you get the idea. In addition to reducing your waste, you might also be saving money. Many shops will give you a discount if you bring in your own mug.

Don't forget reusable cups for cold drinks, too!

Trash compactors go solar

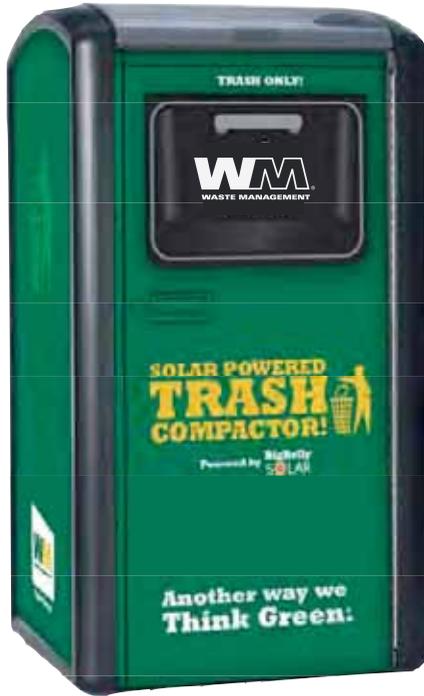
Waste Management's Solar-Powered Trash Compactors use renewable energy to turn public spaces into clean, eco-friendly zones. Powered by the sun, these containers encourage recycling and reduce both greenhouse gas emissions and trash collection expenses. So they are good for the environment and the economy!

Ordinary municipal trash barrels often overflow. About the same size as a standard 35-gallon trash barrel, the compactors have a small footprint, but, thanks to solar-powered compression technology, they can hold about five times as much trash. When a unit reaches capacity, sensors trigger an internal compactor that flattens the contents, converting 180 gallons of waste into easy-to-collect bags. What's more, the Waste Management Solar-Powered Trash Compactor sends a signal when it's ready for pickup.

Because of its greater capacity, the compactor can reduce the number of collection trips by 80%. Fewer collections mean 80% savings in fuel, labor, and maintenance costs, and an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Made from recycled materials, the Waste Management Solar-Powered Trash Compactor works even in areas that don't receive direct sunlight. It gets 100% of needed energy from the sun. These compactors are also made in America, helping create jobs in the "green economy."

The kiosk unit includes receptacles for collecting plastic bottles, newspapers, glass, and other recyclables. By making recycling easy, the system improves recycling rates, helps keep recyclables clean, and preserves valuable resources.



What about yard waste?

The first choice for yard waste is reuse, of course! You can grasscycle your clippings by letting them drop onto your lawn when you mow; mulch with grass, leaves, and chipped woody waste; and compost. To learn more about reusing your yard waste, visit the city's website at www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms or attend a free composting class at the Fullerton Arboretum.

However, if you have extra yard waste, think green and put clean yard debris into your cart with the green lid. Most Irvine residents living in homes with sizable yard space and that receive curbside waste collection service have these greenwaste recycling carts.

In order to be turned into mulch and compost, the material in your greenwaste cart must be clean and free of trash, paper products, and recyclables. Place ONLY these items into your green cart:

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Weeds
- Garden trimmings
- Prunings
- Wood chips
- Small branches and limbs

Keep the lid closed so that your cart does not fill with rainwater and so the truck can empty it properly. Yard greenwaste is collected weekly on the same day as trash collection.

If you have questions about your service, please call Waste Management's Customer Service Center at 949-642-1191.



Recycling programs continue to evolve and grow as new markets become available for recyclable materials.

Make sure you know what materials are recyclable and get all of your recyclables into your curbside recycling cart or your community's recycling bin.



These items are currently accepted in our local recycling program:

- Newspapers and magazines
- Mixed paper (printer, white, colored, all types accepted)
- Telephone books and directories
- Bulk/junk mail, envelopes, and catalogs
- File folders
- Cardboard boxes (please flatten)
- Softbound (paperback) books
- Hardbound books (inside paper only, no cover)
- Paperboard, such as cereal boxes, tissue boxes, shoe boxes, egg cartons, beverage boxes, and dry food boxes
- Frozen dinner boxes and other frozen food boxes
- Empty paper towel and toilet tissue rolls
- Shredded paper (bag in clear plastic or paper bag before putting into cart)
- Pizza boxes (with NO food residue)
- Paper towels (must be clean and dry)
- Plastic beverage containers, such as soda, water, and juice bottles
- Plastic containers (#1-#7), such as laundry detergent, ketchup, mustard, and hair product bottles
- Plastic bags – grocery, dry cleaning, newspaper, and other film bags (bundle inside one plastic bag, tie bag shut, and place in the cart)
- Plastic plates, cups, and utensils (#1-7)
- Plastic buckets (#1-7)
- Plastic tubs (#1-7)
- Plastic toys (#1-7)
- Aluminum cans
- Tin cans, such as soup, tuna, vegetable juice, and coffee cans
- Empty aerosol cans (must be completely empty)
- Pie tins
- Paint cans (must be empty and completely dried out)
- Metal hangers
- Glass food jars that held sauce, mayo, pickles, etc. (no residue)
- Beverage glass bottles, such as wine, beer, liquor, and juice bottles

When in doubt, double check to see whether a material is recyclable before you throw it out! If you have questions, refer to the City's newsletters or the environmental programs website, www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms, or call the Irvine Recycles Hotline at 949-724-7669.

Do you have pocket change sitting in your trash?

You may! Most beverages packaged in aluminum, glass, and plastic containers are part of the California Refund Value program (marked with "CRV" or "CA Cash Refund"). You can redeem empty CRV containers and get a refund of the deposit you paid when you purchased the drinks. All of these facilities redeem CRV containers:

- rePLANET / Ralphs Shopping

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

The City of Irvine
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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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Center (TOMRA Pacific Inc.), 14400 Culver Drive, Irvine, 877-737-5263 – Reverse Vending Machine: Tuesday through Sunday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Staffed: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **rePLANET / Ralphs Shopping Center (TOMRA Pacific Inc.), 17605 Harvard Avenue, Irvine, 877-737-5263** – Reverse Vending Machine: Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **rePLANET / Albertsons Shopping Center (TOMRA Pacific Inc.), 4541 Campus Drive, Irvine, 877-737-5263** – Reverse Vending Machine: Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Pentum Group, 15333 Culver Drive,**

Suite 800, Irvine, 909-981-8978

• **Bionet Inc., 5402 Walnut Avenue, Irvine, 909-981-8978** – Open: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Waste Management/OCCC, 16122 Construction Circle East, Irvine, 714-956-6222** – Open: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – At this facility only, you can recycle CRV containers, as well as drop off household recyclables and place reusable clothing in the "Planet Aid" drop-off box.

For more locations and hours of operation, visit www.bottlesandcans.com or www.replanetusa.com.

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