

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



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



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

Summer 2008



## I'll take you there

Residents and employees who live and work in the Irvine Business Complex (IBC) now have a new way to reach destinations within the IBC, John Wayne Airport, and the Tustin Metrolink station. The new show-up-and-go *i* shuttles provide riders with easy access to major employment and residential developments within the IBC, as well as a convenient lunchtime route servicing a variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment amenities along the IBC Loop of Main Street, Harvard Avenue, Michelson Drive, Dupont Drive, and Von Karman Avenue. No more fighting traffic, no more looking for parking!

The sprightly new shuttles are easy, convenient, comfortable, and affordable. Riding the *i* shuttle also reduces auto emissions, creating less air pollution. Plus, you'll save gas, which means saving money, too! Operated by the



City of Irvine and designed specifically for the IBC community, this is the missing link between Metrolink, the IBC, UCI, OCTA stops, and everything in between.

Plus, rides are free for everyone through September 1, with a nominal fare ranging from fifty cents to one dollar thereafter.

For more information, routes, schedules, and special offers, visit [www.irvineshuttle.net](http://www.irvineshuttle.net) or call 949-72-GOBUS.



## Recycling away from home

Many of the parks in Irvine have recycling containers available for your plastic bottles, glass bottles, and aluminum beverage cans. These containers provide convenient and easy recycling away from home. These recycling containers are for bottles and cans only; please place all other drink containers and cups into the trash.

Remember to participate, not contaminate. Make sure when you are disposing of trash that you place it in the proper place—the trash cans—not in the recycling containers. These containers are for recyclable aluminum, plastic, and glass beverage bottles and cans only! Please, do NOT place other plastics, Styrofoam cups, carry-out coffee cups, juice boxes, or other drink containers into the recycling bins—these materials contaminate the recyclables.

Once recyclables are dropped into the bins, they are City property. **Please do NOT try to scavenge the recyclables from the bins!** Even attempting to scavenge materials from the bins is illegal. We pay the Orange County Conservation Corps to empty our park

**The recycling containers, which were purchased from Kettle Creek, are made from recycled plastic lumber. They are clearly marked to remind you to put only recyclable bottles and cans into recycling bins!**



recycling bins and recycle the material. The sale of these recyclables helps fund our recycling and trash collection program at the parks.

And, please, do NOT vandalize the recycling containers. Each of these bins cost about \$800. At some parks, when scavengers were unable to get inside to steal recyclables, they have seriously damaged the bins. Local police are patrolling these park areas. People caught attempting to scavenge recyclables or vandalizing the containers will be prosecuted.

## Shedding light on fluorescent disposal

Hazardous waste includes some items that aren't hazardous during regular use, but which can become hazardous if improperly disposed. These items are known as "universal waste" and include many common household items, such as fluorescent lamps and tubes, household batteries, cathode ray tubes (CRT computer monitors and TVs), and items that contain mercury. Because these items can be hazardous when disposed, they cannot be discarded in the trash. Instead, please use one of the following options available for Irvine residents to ensure safe and proper disposal:

### Take to a Hazardous Waste Collection Center

The County of Orange accepts fluorescent tubes, universal waste, electronic waste, and other household hazardous waste items at its Collection Center, which is located at 6411 Oak Canyon, Irvine. This center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 714-834-6752 or visit [www.oilandfills.com](http://www.oilandfills.com).

### Schedule a Bulky Item Pickup

As part of the new expanded residential programs, Irvine residents with curbside service are able to dispose of universal waste, such as batteries and fluorescent tubes, as part of the bulky item collection program.

To receive curbside bulky item service, residents with curbside service must call Waste Management's customer service center at 949-642-1191 to schedule a pickup. Bulky items, along with universal waste, are part of a special service and are collected separately from the automated cart program.

After making an appointment, the resident will place the fluorescent tubes or bulbs out near the curb for pickup on the scheduled day. A Waste Management representative will come by and pick up the fluorescent tubes and bulbs. Then the



tubes or bulbs will be taken to our Irvine facility, where they will be placed in a special container for storage.

### Storing and Transporting Tubes and Bulbs

- Package fluorescent lamps and tubes carefully when storing and transporting them. Do not tape tubes together.

- Store and transport fluorescent lamps and tubes in the original box, the box from the replacement

- bulbs, or another protective container.

- Store them in an area away from rain so that if they break, the mercury from broken lamps or tubes will not be washed by rainwater into waterways.
- If a bulb breaks, follow the steps below for proper cleanup.

### How to Clean Up Broken Lamps and Tubes

- For household or small-quantity breakages, do not use a vacuum cleaner. Instead of vacuuming, wear latex gloves and carefully clean up the fragments. Wipe the area with a damp, disposable paper towel to remove all glass fragments and associated mercury.

- Keep all people and pets away from the area so that mercury-containing pieces and powder are not tracked into other areas.
- Keep the area well-ventilated to disperse any vapor that may escape.

- After cleanup is complete, place all fragments, along with cleaning materials, into a sealable plastic bag. Wash your hands. Dispose of the mercury-contaminated cleanup waste, along with unbroken lamps, at the household hazardous waste collection

center or by using a bulky item pickup.

*Note: Guidelines for storing, transporting, and cleaning up broken lamps are provided by the California Integrated Waste Management Board and the Department of Toxic Substances Control.*

## Did you know?

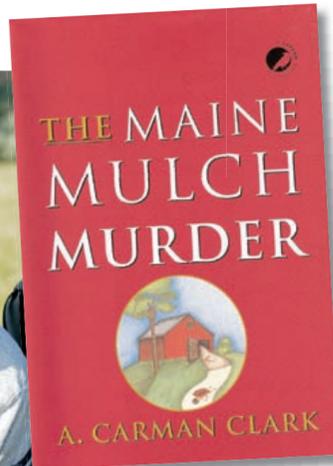
During the year 2000, approximately 370 pounds of mercury were released in California due to the breakage of fluorescent electric lamps and tubes during storage and transportation. Nearly 75 million waste fluorescent lamps and tubes are generated annually in California. Combined, these lamps and tubes contain more than a half ton of mercury. The mercury in urban storm water sediment results in part from improperly discarded fluorescent lamps and tubes.

# Tips for Summer Reading



### Murder at the mulch pile

If you are looking for some light summer reading, check out *The Maine Mulch Murder* by A. Carman Clark (Larcom Press, 2001). Not many murder mysteries begin at a mulch pile as this one does. However,



when Amy Creighton goes to pick up sawdust to mulch her strawberry bed, she uncovers the body of a young man. Thus, the private Amy leaves behind the book she is editing and the garden in need of mulch to help local law enforcement officials unravel a mystery.

From antique dishes collected by a old friend to the tidy habits of a neighbor, Amy and the town constable piece together the clues to the young man's death, unearthing a long-buried secret in the process. In the meantime, she and the constable make peace with their own past, rekindling an old friendship and a lost romance.

And, yes, the strawberry bed does get its mulch—but not until after the mystery has been solved in the final chapter.

### Guides to Green Living

Kermit the Frog once complained, "It's not easy being green." Clearly, Kermit wasn't a 21st century amphibian! You can't pick up a newspaper, open a magazine, or flip a TV channel without seeing stories, ads, and shows promoting "green" living.

Living a greener lifestyle doesn't mean you have to sell your house for a straw-bale replacement or convert your vehicle to burn only used deep-fryer oil. No, it can mean taking small and easy steps, such as replacing burned-out light bulbs with compact fluorescents, selecting laundry detergent in the recyclable jug, letting your grass clippings drop onto the lawn when you mow, or carrying reusable bags into the store.

What Kermit didn't understand is that green isn't about being, but becoming. We each make a host of choices every day. Whether we are long-time ever-greens or newbies who are the palest shade of spring green, we can stand back to look at the choices we have made, those we could make, and those we'd like to make. What we'll probably find is that we could be greener—and that we'd like to be greener.

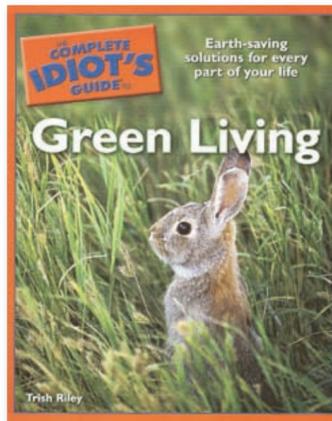
Not sure how to begin? Take a look at these resources. With helpful background information and a good dose of humor, these books (and one magazine) offer guidance without guilt. Whether you adopt one of these as your personal guidebook or sample from each on selected topics, you'll find support, encouragement, and useful advice.

*It's Easy Being Green: A Handbook for Earth-Friendly Living* by Crissy Trask (Gibbs Smith, 2006)

At the outset, this book strives to debunk myths, such as "It's hypocritical to advocate and practice environmentally friendly behaviors in some, but not all, areas of my life." The response? Not so—"possessing the desire and intention to live greener, while having made only marginal progress to date, doesn't make you a hypocrite, it makes you imperfect. And aren't we all?" The book includes about 50 pages of tips, with a helpful checklist so that you can rate how you are doing and what you'd like to do. Another 50 or so pages provide a wide range of online resources.

*Green Living for Dummies* by Yvonne Jeffery, Liz Barclay, and Michael Grosvenor (Wiley Publishing, 2008)

Set up like the other books in the *Dummies* series, this book addresses what you can do at home, how to shop and invest with "green" goals, making your travels more earth-friendly, and creating healthier workplaces and communities. The last section of the book is "The Part of Tens": "Ten Easy Actions that Make an Immediate Impact," "Ten Ways to Darken Your Shade of Green," and "Ten Ways to Repair and Restore Rather Than Trash." The inside front cover has a pull-out green living "cheat sheet," with easy-to-implement ideas and helpful websites.

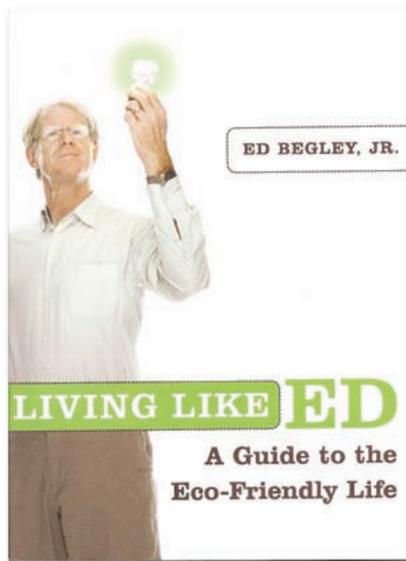
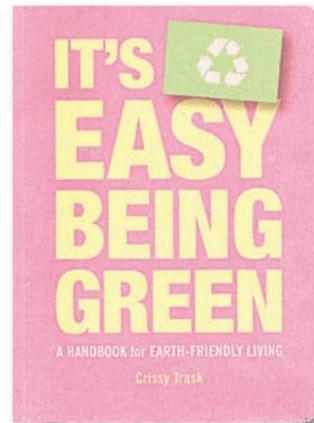


*The Complete Idiot's Guide to Green Living* by Trish Riley (Alpha Books, 2007)

Like *Green Living for Dummies*, this book describes how to "go green" at home, on the road, in your daily life, at work, and in our communities. Sidebars provide hazards to avoid, definitions of "mysterious" terms, statistics, tips, and quotes from experts. An appendix provides a fairly comprehensive resource guide. Each chapter concludes with "The Least You Need to Know" about each topic.

*Living Like Ed: A Guide to the Eco-Friendly Life* by Ed Begley, Jr. (Clarkson Potter/Publishers, 2008)

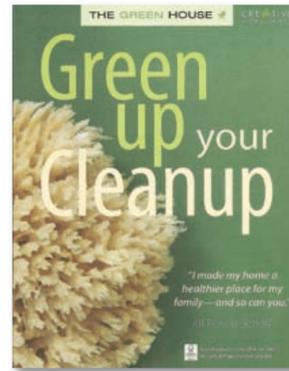
A followup to the popular HGTV series, "Living with Ed," this book includes guidance in six areas: home, transportation, recycling, energy, garden and kitchen, and clothing and personal grooming. Suggestions are categorized as "Easy Changes," "Not-So-Big Changes," and "Big Changes," helping you choose projects that are right for you.



Throughout the book, Begley's wife, Rachele Carson Begley, serves as the voice of the "average guy," who has taken a bit more convincing and who has negotiated some compromises along the way.

*Green Up Your Cleanup* by Jill Potvin Schoff (Creative Homeowner, 2008)

After introducing a "new cleaning arsenal," which is non-toxic and healthier, Jill Potvin Schoff offers step-by-step guidance for cleaning the bathroom and kitchen, doing the laundry, sprucing up around the house, and caring for floors and furnishings. She also includes tips for dirty jobs outside the house and in the garage, workshop, and basement. Not content to tell, this book is filled with pictures that show you how easy it is to green up your cleanup.



*Green Guide: The Resource for Consuming Wisely*, a magazine from National Geographic

Published quarterly, the *Green Guide* magazine grew from a newsletter and website ([www.thegreenguide.com](http://www.thegreenguide.com)) devoted to greener living. The magazine, which is available in print and online, features product evaluations and buying guides, as well as suggestions for reducing, reusing, recycling, conserving energy, and saving money. For example, the Summer 2008 edition features articles such as "Green on a Budget," "Three Simple Steps" to lower summer energy costs, and "Products We Can Live Without."



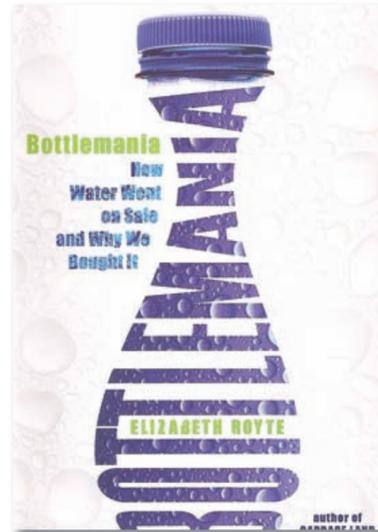
## Don't forget to reduce and reuse!

- Borrow books from your local library.
- Buy used books whenever possible.
- Share books among friends and family members.
- Donate or sell used books that you no longer want or need.

the half-liter polyethylene terephthalate (PET #1) plastic bottle was introduced. In less than two decades, bottled water sales went from \$115 million to \$10.8 billion, just in the U.S. Not surprisingly, Royte's research led to a book aptly titled,

### Water for Sale

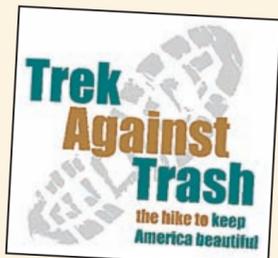
Elizabeth Royte, author of *Garbage Land*, began research of her most recent book with one question: "How did bottled water become so popular in the first place?" A quarter century ago, "bottled water" had little meaning for most Americans. Water bottles were the bulky jugs that sat atop office water coolers or the colorful glass bottles of mineral water that were marketed as little gulps of luxury. That all changed in 1989, when



*Bottlemania: How Water Went on Sale and Why We Bought It* (Bloomsbury, 2008). Although the book is full of facts and figures, Royte's writing is engaging, drawing her readers into the story of bottled water's growth and the people most affected by it.

In exploring how bottled water became a beverage juggernaut, Royte takes an in-depth look at a controversial spring water site in Fryeburg, Maine. In the process, she asks questions about tap water, bottled water sources and quality, water testing, bottling and bottles, transportation, and treatment. However, she leaves her readers with larger questions to ponder: Who controls our water resources? How will we decide how to allocate water resources in our communities and our nation?

## Trekking against trash



In March, Jordan Price and Carlie Roberts began the Trek Against Trash, a 2,174-mile hike up the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. Billed as "The Hike to Keep America Beautiful," their goal is to raise awareness, encouraging others to pick up litter, reduce waste, reuse, and recycle. Along the way, Jordan and Carlie will be pausing to work with local Keep America Beautiful affiliate organizations in trail communities to raise awareness, clean up litter, stencil storm drains, and more. In addition, they hope to raise \$150,000 to support Keep America Beautiful programs.



Photo Courtesy of Jordan Price, Carlie Roberts, and Keep America Beautiful

Jordan and Carlie are recording their adventures in a blog and posting photos and videos of the sites they see and people they meet along the trail. You can read their blog entries at <http://kabtreakagainsttrash.blogspot.com/>. The Appalachian Trail is a footpath that stretches 2,174 miles through 14 states from Maine to Georgia. Since it was completed in 1937, more than 9,500 people have traversed the full length of the trail. Each year, more than 6,000 volunteers contribute over 195,000 hours to protecting, maintaining, and promoting the Appalachian Trail.

To learn more about Jordan and Carlie's journey, to see their photos, to subscribe to their blog, or to donate, visit [www.trekagainsttrash.org](http://www.trekagainsttrash.org).

# FAIR PLAY



Photo Courtesy of Fair Trade Sports

Did you ever stop to think about who makes the soccer balls, basketballs, or footballs that fill your garage? Scott and Susan James asked themselves that question. What they learned surprised them and may surprise you. Many of the balls that American children enjoy were made by other children—children working in sweatshops or doing "piece work" in developing countries.

Rather than moral indignation or half-hearted complaints, Scott and Susan enlisted the help of friends to start a new company, Fair Trade Sports. The company ensures that all balls, and apparel as well, are made by adults who are earning a living wage in healthy working conditions. In addition, the raw materials used are harvested in an environmentally responsible manner.

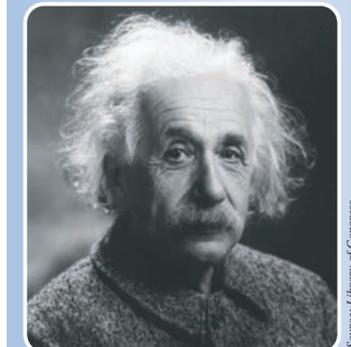
Fair Trade Sports is committed to donating 100% of after-tax profits to children's causes around the world. Newman's Own, a food company founded by Paul Newman and now run by his daughter, Nell, served as a model for Scott and Susan James. Newman's Own donates its after-tax profits to worthy causes—having given away \$200 million in the past 26 years.

Learn more about Fair Trade Sports at [www.fairtradesports.com](http://www.fairtradesports.com).

# QUOTES

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.

Albert Einstein, 1879–1955  
Physicist & Nobel Prize Winner



Source: Library of Congress

# REQUOTED

## WHAT'S UP?

Make plans to travel the world at the **City of Irvine's Annual Global Village Festival** on Saturday, October 4, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Bill Barber Park. Boasting artistic, cultural performances on three stages, the Festival's live entertainment is a mosaic of music and dance representing more than 50 cultures from Europe, Asia, Africa, and North and South America. Immerse yourself in cultural displays, world religions, and demonstrations; indulge in international cuisine; explore our world marketplace; and keep the little ones in motion with hands-on art projects, games, and activities in a giant, interactive Kids Village.

Festival admission and parking are free. Food court tasting tickets are available for purchase at the event.

Bill Barber Park is located adjacent to the Irvine Civic Center on Harvard between Barranca and Alton.

For more information visit [www.cityofirvine.org/globalvillage/](http://www.cityofirvine.org/globalvillage/).



At the **Irvine Earth Day Celebration** at the UC-Irvine campus, 106 attendees committed to recycle their used motor oil in the coming year. Thanks to these motivated do-it-yourselfers and to all the other residents who came out to enjoy a great day of Earth-friendly activities!



At the **Children's Water Festival** in April, we met about 6,000 enthusiastic local students. These children learned about the threats to our water supplies, as well as the many ways we can protect this precious resource. Thanks to all of the volunteers, teachers, and parents who made this event a success!



*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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USING SOY INKS

# Hooked on bottled water

More and more often, busy, health-conscious Americans are choosing bottled water over carbonated soft drinks. Although carbonated soft drink sales have remained steady, bottled water sales have exploded. In 1997, bottled water was only 2% of the beverage container market. By 2005, that figure had grown to 14%. From 2002 to 2005, sales of water in bottles of 1 liter or less increased more than 115% to 27.9 billion units sold in 2005. That trend has continued, with bottled water sales increasing from 7.54 billion gallons in 2005 to a projected 9.4 billion gallons this year.

While quenching our thirst with water rather than sugary non-carbonated drinks or carbonated soft drinks is a good thing for our health and our teeth, buying and tossing all of those bottles isn't such a good thing for our environment. Because bottled water is often purchased and consumed away from home, the vast majority of the bottles are dropped in the trash or, worse, left on the ground. Unfortunately, many of these bottles aren't even empty, meaning water which was processed, trucked several hundred miles, and purchased didn't even get to provide that half-liter of refreshment.

Water bottles are being recycled at a lower rate than other beverage containers. Most "single-serve" water is packaged in polyethylene terephthalate (PET, #1) plastic bottles. This is the same type of plastic used for carbonated soft drinks and sports drinks. While the overall recycling rate for PET bottles is about 23%, the rate for water bottles is lower. During 2004, which was the last year soft drink and non-carbonated drink bottles were tracked separately by the American Chemistry Council, the recycling rate for carbonated soft drink bottles was 33.7%, while the rate for non-



carbonated beverage bottles (including water, ready-to-drink teas, sports drinks, and juice-based drinks) was only 14.5%. Drinks purchased at or carried to events are likely to be consumed there. Since many ballfields, shopping centers, and other venues do not provide recycling containers, empty bottles are often trashed. (That's one of the reasons why we've kicked off our park recycling program.) During 2005, nearly 49 billion PET beverage containers were thrown away or littered. That's a lot of bottles that could easily have been recycled and turned into new bottles, fleece fabric, or carpet.

Besides bottled water purchased on-the-go, a great deal is purchased for drinking at home. Obviously, almost every American has an in-home source of drinking water—the kitchen tap. Tap water from

municipal sources is tested under federal Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. Each year, your municipality must provide you with a Consumer Confidence Report on how well your drinking water meets federal standards. If your water is meeting federal guidelines but has an unpleasant taste, an in-home filter or a filter pitcher may be all you need.

Sometimes, residents choose bottled water over tap water because they think it is safer. Generally speaking, bottled water is subject to less regulation than tap water from a municipal source. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration oversees bottled water as a "packaged food" product. However, this only applies to bottled water that is packaged in one state and sold in another. Bottled water packaged and sold in the same state does not have to meet any federal guidelines. Some bottled water makers have opted to seek certification from a non-profit, non-governmental organization known as NSF International. NSF does unannounced plant visits to ensure that the water is meeting FDA standards.

Try to cut back on bottled water use. During 2007, each person consumed about 222 bottles of water. If each of those bottles had been used and refilled 10 times, that number would have dropped to about 20 bottles per person! Plus, since tap water is so much cheaper, you could have saved at least \$60!

When it comes to water bottles, reduce by filling your own glasses and bottles, reuse by cleaning and refilling bottles, and recycle all of your empty bottles.

## Residential Landscape Workshops

To promote water efficiency, Irvine Ranch Water District periodically holds landscape workshops. These free workshops are open to any residential customer in the IRWD service area. The workshop features fact-filled talks and plant displays by local irrigation, landscape, and gardening experts.

The next workshop will be held on Friday, September 26, from 6 to 9 p.m. Registration and exhibits will open at 5:30 p.m. at IRWD's headquarters, which is located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine. Workshop dates are also advertised in the monthly newsletter that comes with your water bill.

For more details, please call 949-453-5327.

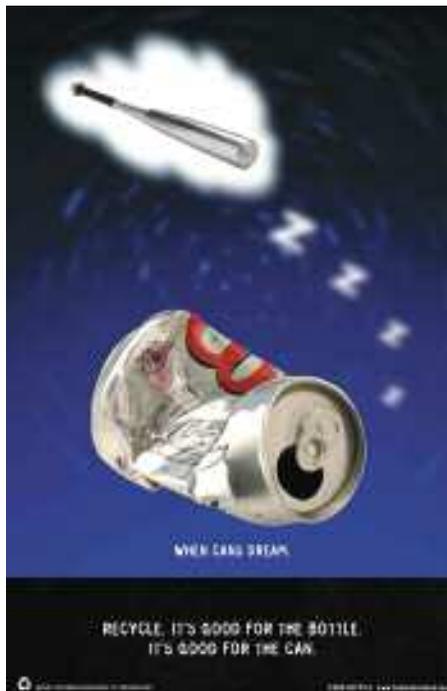
## Redeem your empties

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 beverage containers that are part of this program and get back the deposit that you paid when you purchased your drinks.

In Irvine, you can redeem your empty CRV beverage containers at these locations:

- Waste Management/OCCC, 16122 Construction Circle East, Irvine – 714-956-6222 – Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tawa Supermarket/Pentum Group, 15333 Culver Drive, Suite 800, Irvine – 909-981-8978
- Bionet Inc., 5402 Walnut Avenue, Irvine – 909-981-8978 – Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

You can find other CRV redemption centers by calling 1-800-RECYCLE or visiting [www.bottlesandcans.com](http://www.bottlesandcans.com).



## Recycling reminders



We accept plastic bags for recycling in the curbside recycling program. Residents with curbside recycling service can place their *clean, empty plastic bags* in the gray recycling cart. Use one bag as a holder and place all of the other bags inside it. Then tie it shut and drop it into your gray cart. PLEASE DO NOT PUT LOOSE PLASTIC BAGS INTO YOUR CART!

Other recyclables accepted in the gray recycling carts are: newspapers; mixed paper; bulk mail; cardboard; cereal and gift boxes; magazines; phone books; aluminum cans; tin/steel cans; plastic bottles and jugs; and glass food and beverage bottles and jars. Remove and discard lids from plastic bottles. Make sure containers are free of liquid or food waste.

If you live in a multi-family complex, check with your property manager for the location of your on-site recycling bins, as well as the materials accepted for recycling.