

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



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



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

Summer 2009



Irvine businesses win WRAP awards

The California Integrated Waste Management Board administers the annual Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP). WRAP provides an opportunity for California businesses to be recognized for their outstanding efforts to reduce waste. Each business is judged based upon its own accomplishments. For more information or to apply for an award,



visit the CIWMB's WRAP site at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WRAP.

Here's a look at Irvine's 2008 winners:

Allergan Sales, LLP

Location: 2525 Dupont Drive

With headquarters in Irvine, Allergan is a global specialty pharmaceutical company that develops and commercializes innovative products for the eye care, neuromodulator, skin care, and other specialty markets. For the last 13 years, Allergan has successfully recycled materials from offices, laboratories, and manufacturing sites worldwide. In 2007, Allergan recycled approximately 3,017 tons of material and had a recycling rate of approximately 64% worldwide. This represents average annual savings of approximately \$1,256,817 by diverting recyclable materials away from the landfill. At the corporate headquarters in Irvine, Allergan recycled approximately 228 tons of waste materials in 2007.

Edwards Lifesciences, LLC

Location: 1212 Alton Parkway

This leading medical device manufacturer has several successful waste reduction programs in place with more under development. Through 2007, they have more than doubled their recycling and other waste reduction efforts, diverting 150 tons of waste from landfills and into reuse markets. Reduction and reuse strategies have helped them achieve more than \$200,000 in annual savings.

Nikken U.S.A. Inc.

Location: 52 Discovery

Nikken is a wellness and multi-level marketing company. One of the company's most successful waste reduction practices is eliminating the purchase of water through a distribution company and putting 10 Nikken filtered water dispensers throughout the company. It is estimated that 161 tons of waste were diverted from the landfill due to recycling

and reuse practices. As a result, Nikken saved \$21,896 in avoided disposal fees. Nikken is always striving to improve operations to reduce energy and materials consumption and help protect our air, water, and natural resources. Nikken also communicates an awareness of environmental responsibility to the thousands of independent Nikken Consultants worldwide.

Orthodyne Electronics

Location: 16700 Red Hill Avenue

Orthodyne Electronics is the leading manufacturer of ultrasonic wire bonders, with an established tradition of developing revolutionary products for the semiconductor and microelectronics industries. The company has a comprehensive program which resulted in recycling 71 tons of paper, cardboard, aluminum, scrap metals, plastic, green waste, and universal waste. As a part of its ISO 14001 certification, Orthodyne also participates in building energy efficiency and carpool programs. Orthodyne has saved an estimated \$28,000 through its reduction, reuse, and recycling programs.

8 Ways to Green Your HOA

Home Owner Associations, or HOAs, are becoming more and more common. In fact, in 2008 there were 300,800 reported association-governed communities. With about 71 percent of people polled in 2007 rating their overall HOA experience as positive, these associations are here to stay.

With these organizations playing a larger role in our communities, making sure that they consider our eco-concerns is just as important as making sure our own homes are up to environmental code.

If your HOA were to be evaluated for its level of eco-consciousness, how would it score? If you believe your community could be greener, take a look at our eight ways to encourage your HOA to "green up."

1. Encourage eco-landscaping.

A great start to greening your HOA is to take a look at the community's landscaping. Green landscaping puts to use water-saving techniques, including irrigation systems and strategic plant selection, which conserve water, as well as reduce the need for chemical fertilizers. The U.S. EPA is a great resource for environmentally friendly landscaping information (www.epa.gov/greenkit/landscap.htm).

2. Clean up the equipment.

Now that your community's landscaping is green, make sure those mowers are green, too! Instead of gasoline-powered tools, encourage your HOA to use mow-

ers and tools that run on cleaner fuel. According to the EPA, gasoline-powered mowers are responsible for nearly 5% of our air pollution. Nontoxic propane mowers are a great alternative to gas-powered mowers.

3. Save water.

Homes and communities everywhere can probably stand to improve upon their water-saving techniques. Community sprinkler systems set with accurate spray settings, efficient watering schedules, and rain-excess sensors can help reduce HOA water usage overall. Using drought-tolerant plants in landscaping will also help



neighborhood communities save water.

4. Find an alternate power.

Let your HOA see the light—solar-operated light, that is. The availability of solar-generated lighting, fixtures, and appliances is greater now than ever. You can purchase them at any home improvement store—and IKEA has come out with its own line of sun-powered lighting. Have your HOA install low-energy, infrared, and ultrasonic fixtures and appliances for common-area buildings.

HOAs with pools can use solar power generation or water heaters to heat pools. Timers and low-energy bulbs for outdoor lighting, along with energy-efficient thermostats for community centers, also lower HOA energy consumption.

5. Go paperless.

Stop the presses! (And the office printers and copiers.) To ensure your HOA doesn't waste paper, make sure community websites and emails are used for announcements and billing. To reduce paper waste, many HOAs are using the Internet for HOA fee transactions, announcements, and event calendars.

6. Build it green.

Is your community still under construction or looking to make improvements? Make sure your HOA uses energy-efficient materials for new buildings in the community or for common-area construc-

Travel the world right here in Irvine!

The Irvine Global Village Festival will be held on Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Bill Barber Park.

Annually, more than 10,000 guests travel the world at the City of Irvine's Global Village Festival. 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 religion, 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.

While you are having fun at the festival, please don't forget to recycle your bottles and cans. ClearStream recycling receptacles will be in place throughout the festival grounds to collect your beverage containers.

To learn more or to volunteer, visit www.cityofirvine.org/globalvillage.



(Continued on Page 4)

What will you carry?

As a result of the recession, conspicuous consumption is out and frugality and conservation are in. However, as we learned with last year's high gas prices, once things are back to normal, our new-found habits don't always last.

As some bright spots begin to appear on the economic horizon, now is a great time to think about your habits, both new and old. What changes have you made? Which will you keep? Which will you give up to return to "normal"? As you are asking yourself these questions, remember that waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, like water and energy conservation, are great habits even when times are good.

Here are some habits that you and your family can carry into the future:

- Carry a list when you shop. Evaluating what you have and making a list of what you need will help you "use up" what is in your house. This reduces waste, especially of food, and saves you money.
- Carry in your own shopping bags, refillable water bottles, and reusable coffee mugs. Eliminating unneeded packaging waste helps keep store costs lower and reduces litter and waste.
- Carry out your bank receipts, food orders, and more. Rather than heading to the drive-through and idling your vehicle, wast-

ing fuel and creating air pollution, stop, park, and walk. You'll get a bit of exercise, see people, save energy, and probably won't spend any more time.

- Carry over last year's supplies. Clean out last year's backpack for school. Organize your office and school supplies, using what you have before buying additional items.
- Carry forward items you no longer need, donating or selling usable goods to someone who can use them. Maybe you have a set of towels that doesn't match your new bathroom paint. Do you know a student heading off to college or a young adult moving into his or her own place? Offer them those usable linens.
- Carry away recyclable and recycled-content products from the store. While you are shopping, select items in containers that can be recycled in our local programs (called "precycling" because you are planning ahead to recycle). Also, look for recycled-content products. Recycling markets have been hard hit by our economic downturn, so be sure you are closing the loop and buying items made from recyclables whenever possible.
- Carry your recyclables home. If you are out and don't see a recycling bin, take your containers and paper products home for recycling.
- Carry on. The key to good habits is keeping them up.



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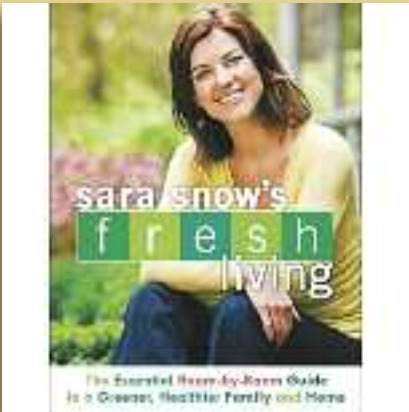
Read more about it!

A Conservationist Manifesto by Scott Russell Sanders (Indiana University Press, 2009)



"My Year Without Spending" by Angela Barton – www.myyearwithoutspending.blogspot.com

Sara Snow's Fresh Living: The Essential Room-by-Room Guide to a Greener, Healthier Family and Home by Sara Snow (Bantam Books, 2009)



The Simple Living Network – www.simpleliving.net

To Buy or Not to Buy: Why We Overshop and How to Stop by April Lane Benson (Trumpeter, 2008)

Shop smart

When you plan ahead and shop smart, you can green your home and our planet and keep more green in your wallet, too! The phrases hidden in this puzzle will give you tips for making better use of what you already own and shopping smart for what you need.

Find these phrases (look up, down, backward, forward, and diagonally):

- Bring your own bag
- Buy recycled
- Clean out closets
- Inventory pantry
- Make a list
- Organize
- Plan ahead
- Sort what you have
- Shop reused
- Use refillables

G H A A D G R R B X L G E Z I N A G R O
P B V E G Y Z D C V X K G W B W Q E C W
B P U M N D O G A N A A K I H W K S L I
N E S A E A J J E G E M J Z S I Y H E U
I X E K N V H O O A Q Q K R W D X O A G
N Z R E C W A H H B Y F W S Q T K P N Z
V E E A W Q Z H T N I T N J V P C R O Z
E N F L A R G M U W U U Q P G J W E U W
N L I I D E N P X O G M S D F P K U T Z
T Z L S A G T K A R Y E B A N M P S C R
O P L T E J F X F U Z T P U R S M E L F
R Z A Q H Z E A F O T P A T A D G D O U
Y T B R A O V F L Y Q E J H J U G M S G
P G L K N E M A A G T V J D W W K I E G
A M E B A A O Z O N B L Q W J T W G T K
N B S D L M I B O I T H V G Z I R R S F
T F S S P R Z X A R Z I G U F P I O K G
R T G S W Q T Y C B D Q C F X U P D S G
Y T J D W Z K W Q K F I Q W W F W P R G
D E L C Y C E R Y U B Q F F D U D N B P

Judging the book by its cover

Covering topics from adhesive notes and batteries to wrapping paper and yoga mats, *The Green Book* by Elizabeth Rogers and Thomas M. Kostigen describes the “big picture” and then offers “little things” that you can do to make our planet a better place. In addition, each chapter offers three “simple steps” you can take to reduce your waste, conserve water, and save energy.

With chapter subtitles like “The Family Vacation That Ate the Planet” and “I Can’t Hang Out With You Because I Have to Call, Text, IM, and E-Mail My Friends All Day,” you’ll be entertained as you learn facts that will amaze your friends and relatives. For instance, reusing



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paper clips could save American businesses \$1 million each year. In Las Vegas, a single 300-room hotel goes through 150,000 small plastic bottles of shampoo per year. By carrying your own refillable shampoo bottles, you benefit from bulk pricing and wipe out waste. Eliminating “phantom” electricity usage by putting electronics and small appliances on power strips and turning them all the way off when not in use could save \$5 billion in electricity each year. There are hundreds of tips on items in use at home, work, school, and more in categories ranging from technology and travel to shopping and sports.

The book includes about 50 pages of Internet resources by category and material.



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Add surfers to the list of sports enthusiasts who are recycling. ReSurf Recycling, founded by Joey Santley and Steve Cox, is taking old and broken surfboards. Most of the boards are pulverized and used as filler material in asphalt and concrete mixes and other products, such as fireproof roofing tiles. However, some of the boards are now used to create new polyurethane “blanks,” the foam that is shaped to create a new surfboard. Recently, they also began recycling neoprene wet-suit production scraps, turning them into yoga mats.

ReSurf joins other sports equipment makers in recycling: Necky, which makes recycled kayaks; Wilson, which produces the Rebound basketball from recycled rubber; Nike, which turns worn-out athletic shoes into Nike Grind track and playground surfaces; and Fair Trade Sports, which makes recycled footballs, basketballs, soccer and rugby balls, and more.

To learn more about surfboard recycling, visit www.resurf.org.

Home: The Big Picture

“On average, you create 4.5 pounds of trash every day. Over the course of your life, that will total six hundred times your average adult weight . . . in garbage. Broken down, your torso would be paper. One leg would be yard trimmings, the other food scraps. One arm would be plastic with a rubber hand. The other would be metal with a wood hand. Your head would be glass, and your neck would be all the other stuff. In the end, we will each leave a ninety-thousand-pound legacy of trash for our grandchildren.”

From Chapter 1, The Green Book



A virtual arts and crafts fair

Are you an artist or crafter? Would you like to turn some of your creations into cash? Check out Etsy.com, an online marketplace where you can buy and sell “all things homemade.” The site features art, bags, candles, ceramics and pottery, clothing and scarves, furniture, holiday items, housewares, jewelry, knitting and needlecraft, paper goods, quilts, toys, woodworking, and more. If a craftsperson makes it, it is probably for sale at Etsy.

This is one of the largest online person-to-person sales sites for arts and crafts. Etsy has more than 250,000 artists and craftspeople displaying items, about 2.3 million members who may browse and buy, and about 10,000,000 unique visitors to the site each month. Total sales of

handcrafted goods through the site in 2008 were \$87.5 million. Currently, more than 3.6 million items are listed for sale.

For artists and crafters, the cost to advertise items on the site is minimal—20¢ per item for a four-month listing. When items are sold, the company collects a 3.5% commission on the sale.

To buy arts and crafts on Etsy, you need an account, which may be set up at no charge. You can search by category, by location, by color, by era (called “Time Machine”), and more. Like eBay, items that you purchase will be shipped directly to you by the seller.

To learn more about selling or buying products through Etsy, visit www.etsy.com.



Photos courtesy of Etsy.com

FAST FACTS

- 67% of Americans believe that even in tough economic times, it is important to purchase products with environmental benefits.
- 51% are willing to pay more for these products.
- 77% agree that they can make a positive difference by purchasing products from environmentally responsible companies and are actively seeking information to verify green claims.
- 40% of consumers regularly buy environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Source: 2009 BBMG Conscious Consumer Report: Redefining Value in a New Economy

Everyday environmentalists

America’s solid waste industry collected and processed more than 63 million tons of recyclables in 2007 and more than 22 million tons of yard and food waste for composting. It is facts like these that have led the industry group, the National Solid Wastes Management Association (NSWMA), to kick off the “Environmentalists. Every Day.” campaign. Our nation’s 386,000 waste and recycling haulers and processors help keep our recycling, composting, and disposal programs moving forward, working as partners with local government and private businesses.

The NSWMA is also the sponsor of the “Slow Down to Get Around” campaign, which encourages drivers of vehicles to be more careful around waste and recycling trucks. Many accidents occur when motorists try to quickly pass slowed or stopped collection vehicles.

To learn more about the solid waste industry, visit www.EnvironmentalistsEveryDay.org.

QUOTES REQUOTED

In order to live, we must use the earth—but we should not use it up. . . . We must conserve the minerals we mine and the products we manufacture, recycling them as thoroughly as a forest recycles twigs, leaves, fur, and bone.

Scott Russell Sanders, 1945–
Writer and conservationist





Landscape Workshops

Irvine Ranch Water District's residential landscape workshops are held twice per year, in the early spring and in the fall. This event takes place at IRWD's headquarters, located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine. Workshop dates are also advertised in the monthly newsletter that comes with your water bill.

At the workshops, you'll learn:

- How to pick the right plants
- How much to water your plants
- How to water properly to reduce runoff

For additional details, please call 949-453-5327, or visit www.irwd.com/FreePrograms/workshops.php.



Composting Classes

Fullerton Arboretum's Composting Classes are free to Irvine residents. Learn how to turn yard clippings and food scraps into a valuable resource at the composting workshop. The class provides an overview of composting for the beginner, as well as a discussion of advanced techniques for the experienced composter. Fullerton Arboretum has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its GreenScapes activities, including its commitment to providing outstanding composting classes.

Visit their website at <http://fullertonarboretum.org> for information on the next composting class.



Composting Video

Learn more about composting by watching the video posted on Irvine's website at www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms.



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.



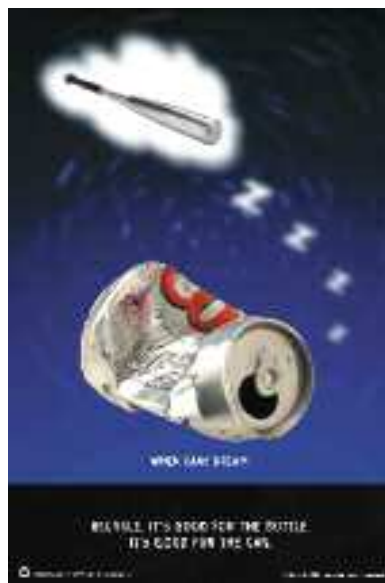
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Your cans (and bottles) can!



Did you know that you can turn your empty bottles and cans into cash? You can! When you purchase beverages in containers that are part of the California Refund Value program (marked with "CRV" or "CA Cash Refund"), you pay a deposit. When your containers are empty, you can redeem them and get a refund of that deposit. Beverages packaged in CRV bottles and cans include soft drinks, sports drinks, carbonated and noncarbonated water, fruit and vegetable juices, wine coolers, and beer. (Not included in the CRV program are milk, infant formula, hard liquor, wine, medical foods, 100% fruit juice in 46 oz. or larger containers, vegetable juice in containers above 16 oz., and beverages in large size containers that are refillable.)

You can redeem your CRV plastic and glass bottles and aluminum cans at these Irvine locations:

- Waste Management/Orange County Conservation Corps Center, 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.

If you don't want to redeem your CRV containers, be sure to recycle them in your recycling cart with the gray lid!

Are you recycling plastic bags?

If not, you should be! Residents with curbside recycling service can recycle their plastic bags in the recycling cart with the gray lid. For residents who live in multi-family complexes, place your plastic bags in the gray recycling bin. To participate, simply place your plastic bags inside another bag, not loose in the cart, to ensure that all the plastic will be captured in the sorting process. When your bag is full, tie it shut and drop it into the recycling cart.

Plastic bag recycling is also still

available at most grocery stores. Even better is bringing your own reusable tote the next time you take a trip to the grocery store. Many stores are selling reusable totes for grocery shopping, and even department stores have reusable totes. Some stores give you a small discount for bringing your own bags.

Of the 88 billion bags used each year in the U.S., fewer than 1% are recycled. We generate enough film plastic to shrink-wrap the state of Texas. Let's recycle more of it!



**Remember to
bag your bags!**

Burned-out CFLs? You have options!

Did you know that compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs cannot go into your household trash? Because these bulbs contain small amounts of mercury, they must be recycled under California law. This protects our air and drinking water, as well as our children and neighbors.

In order to help your family dispose of CFLs properly, the City of Irvine offers free recycling containers to Irvine residents. These recycling containers have a resealable bag that will hold up to 13 CFL bulbs and includes a pre-paid return shipping label.

Irvine residents may pick up a CFL recycling kit from the Public Works Department, located on the second floor of City Hall, during regular business hours. There is a limit of one container per resident per visit. Proof of Irvine residency, such as a current driver's license, state-issued ID, or utility bill, is required.

This mail-back program adds yet another convenient and safe disposal option for Irvine residents.

Waste Management of Orange County currently picks up CFLs from residents as part of the bulky item service. Residents must call Waste Management's Customer Service Center at 949-642-1191 to schedule a pickup. The bulbs must be properly packaged and placed in a durable, sealed container.

CFLs are also accepted at the County of Orange Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center, located at 6411 Oak Canyon. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed on holidays and rainy days).

For more information about CFL disposal options, visit www.cityofirvine.us/files/CFL_Bulbs_WM_Collection_Program.pdf or call the Irvine Recycles Hotline at 949-724-7669.

8 Ways...

(Continued from Page 1)

tion, such as picnic areas or play areas. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), or Green Building Rating System, was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to provide a framework of standards for builders which are interested in green building and maintenance. Some greener construction options include using Energy STAR appliances, LEED-certified fixtures and materials, low volatile organic compound (VOC) paints, and multi-zone HVACs designed to distribute air at pre-programmed temperatures in different zones throughout the building.

7. Get schooled.

Get involved with your HOA. Help organize community events and programs that will help encourage other HOA members to recycle, practice eco-friendly lawn care, and learn energy-efficient activities. Some HOAs assist in the recycling of paint, batteries, pesticides, tires, and other hazardous materials, as well.

8. Try some positive reinforcement.

Make it worth everyone's while. Suggest that your HOA offer incentives, such as reduced HOA fees, for homeowners who meet certain green standards. HOAs can encourage homeowners to retrofit their homes with low-emitting cabinets, countertops, and carpets, low-flow toilets and other plumbing fixtures, energy-efficient ventilation systems, low-emittance (Low-E) doors and windows, and fluorescent or LED lighting.

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Keep it clean and green

The first choice for yard waste is to reuse it in your yard by grasscycling your lawn clippings, mulching your leaves, or composting. However, if you have extra yard waste, think green and put the *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 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.