



You Can Support the 2/11 Marine Battalion by Donating Your Aluminum Cans!

For the last three years, the City of Irvine has participated in the nationwide recycling challenge called "Cans for Cash." In 2009, the City won its third Cans for Cash award and donated the award proceeds to the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee.

This year, the City will continue its partnership with the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee to collect as many aluminum cans as possible to support



the military troops of the 2/11 Marine Battalion and their families. If the City wins another Cans for Cash award, it has pledged to donate the award proceeds to the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee.

How can you help support the 2/11 Marine Battalion?

- Save your aluminum cans now.
- In October, bring your cans to the buyback center at 16122 Construction Circle (the nearest cross-street is Barranca). Hours of operation at the buyback center are Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Inform the attendant that the cans are for the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee.

For more information about the Cans for Cash contest, please visit www.cityofirvine.us or call 949-724-7522.



A Quarterly Newsletter of



The City of Irvine

(949) 724-7669



Waste Management
of Orange County

(949) 642-1191

Fall 2010

"One Person's Trash..." Newsletter Goes Paperless in Irvine!

As part of the City of Irvine's ongoing effort to promote sustainability, starting with this issue, the "One Person's Trash..." newsletter will be paperless. By going paperless, the City will reduce the environmental impact of producing print materials, promoting the City's Zero Waste Resolution.



The style and design of the newsletter will remain similar. Residents will be able to access the online newsletter from the City's Environmental Programs website (www.cityofirvine.us) and learn eco-friendly tips on how to protect the environment.

Three R's for E-Waste

Each year, Americans replace hundreds of thousands of household batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), computers, televisions, cell phones, and various other pieces of equipment with electronic components. The old items, most of which still work, are often no longer wanted or needed, becoming "e-waste" (electronic waste). So what are we to do with this growing pile of e-waste?

First, of course, think REDUCE. As we mentioned, many of the items being replaced still work just fine. Think before you buy. Does your old iPod or MP3 player work? Why get a new one then? How about your computer? If it is working, maybe it doesn't need to be replaced just yet.

Second, consider REUSE. A lot of working electronics can be used by someone else in your family. Or, maybe you could sell the item at a garage sale or resale shop. Perhaps you could donate your old and working television, computer, or cell phone to a charitable organization.

Third, plan to RECYCLE. Broken and outdated electronics can be recycled. During recycling, electronics are taken apart so that their components, metals, and chemicals can be reused to make new equipment.

To make it easier to recycle your old electronics, two convenient local programs are available. E-waste is accepted for pickup as part of Waste Management's Bulky Item Collection or at the County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers at no charge. For more information about these programs, refer to the City's Environmental Programs website, www.cityofirvine.us, or call the Irvine Recycles Hotline at 949-724-7669.



Make an appointment for bulky item collection

Program also accepts CFLs, batteries and other E-Waste

Bulky item collection is available year-round to Irvine residents who live in single-family homes and have curbside waste collection service. Residents are entitled to two free pickups each year, with up to four large items per pickup. Bulky items include large, hard-to-handle items, such as furniture, mattresses, and appliances, as well as televisions, computer monitors, and other e-waste items, including compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs and household batteries. While there is no charge for this service, it does require an appointment.

For more information about the program or to schedule a bulky item pickup, call Waste Management's Customer Service Center at 949-642-1191.

Residents who live in apartments or other multi-family complexes should inquire with their property manager about bulky item service.



E-Waste accepted at Collection Centers

There is no charge to drop off e-waste, as well as household hazardous waste, at the County of Orange permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers (HHWCC). The nearest location for Irvine residents is the Irvine Regional HHWCC at 6411 Oak Canyon, which is off of Sand Canyon between the 5 and 405 freeways (use the same driveway as Bark Park). The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (closed holidays and rainy days).

Residents may drop off household hazardous waste, such as automotive fluids, lawn and garden chemicals, and household cleaners; pharmaceuticals; medical sharps in approved containers; and universal waste, such as fluorescent tubes and bulbs, batteries, and electronics. There is no charge to drop off these items. Please keep chemicals in their original, labeled containers, if possible. Remember not to mix chemicals together. When loading these items into your car or van, place them into a cardboard box in the trunk or in the very back, as far away from passengers as possible. There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous chemicals per visit.

There is a "swap" center at the HHWCC where you can pick up partially full containers of cleaners, lawn and garden products, paints and stains, automotive fluids, and more at no charge!

For more information, call the County's hotline at 714-834-6752 or visit their website at www.oilandfills.com.

Irvine Ranch Water District

Saving water and money has never been easier! The Irvine Ranch Water District offers residential landscape workshops twice per year, in the early spring and again in the fall. Workshop dates are listed on the website, www.irwd.com/community-programs/events-webinars-workshops.html. Workshop dates are also advertised in the monthly newsletter, Pipelines, that comes with your water bill.

For more details, please call 949-453-5500.

Compost critters

Did you know that critters of all sorts are at work in a backyard compost bin? As materials rot in a compost bin or pile, they provide food to many different organisms, from bacteria and fungi to millipedes and mites, from snails and slugs to beetles, centipedes, spiders, and more. A backyard bin is a city of compost critters. These critters are hard at work turning yard waste and some kitchen scraps into a humus-like compost that makes a great addition to garden or potting soil and improves the way soil handles rainwater.



If you aren't already composting, put your backyard critters to work! To begin, place "brown" and "green" organic materials into a compost bin or pile. (You can build or buy compost bins.) Browns include dry leaves, straw, shredded paper-board or newspaper, bread, pasta, rice, and wood chips. Greens include fresh grass clippings, vegetable and fruit scraps, fresh plant trimmings, cut flowers, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, and rotting fruits or garden vegetables. Simply keep your materials moist (like a wrung-out sponge) and turn or stir them regularly. In a few months, you'll have finished compost that will look like crumbly soil.

If you and your family would like more information about creating backyard compost, visit the City's website, www.cityofirvine.us, and watch the composting how-to video.



During your fall yard cleanups, remember that green waste is collected separately from trash. Green waste service is provided weekly to most residents with curbside service. The exception is those areas where homes do not typically generate a large amount of green waste. For more information, call Waste Management Customer Service at 949-642-1191.

Put items to good use with reuse

Most of us had a parent or grandparent who would often say, "Well, you can still use that—it's perfectly good." Or, maybe you are the one who reminds others to keep using things that are "perfectly good." When you extend the life of an item, use it over and over again, or find a new and novel use for it, you are reusing, which keeps perfectly good stuff out of landfills.

Here are some easy ways to reuse:

- Instead of disposable containers or plastic bags, choose reusable containers for leftovers and lunches. Washable containers can be used for years without being replaced—saving you money and reducing your waste!
- Fix broken items. To make many repairs, a small tool kit, some wood glue, or a needle and thread may be all you need.
- Rent what you will need for only a short period of time. Whether it is tables for a big party, a chipper-shredder for limbs you pruned from your trees, or a carpet cleaner, renting is a great way to get what you need when you need it without having to pay the full purchase price or find space to store it while it isn't in use.
- Borrow books, movies, and other media from the local library.
- Rent movies and video games from a local store or an Internet service.
- Download music onto your iPod or MP3 player, and books onto your e-reading device.
- Set up a neighborhood "swap meet." This is a great way to meet your neighbors and trade what you don't need for something you do need.
- Sell working and usable items that you no longer want or need at a garage sale, through classified ads (in the newspaper or online), or to a secondhand store.
- Buy from resale stores, such as thrift stores, antique shops, and used bookstores.



You are the key to recycling success!

Did you know that your actions are the key to recycling success? It's true! First, you "precycle" by selecting locally recyclable products and packages when you shop. Second, you collect clean recyclable materials and deliver them to the curb or a drop-off center for processing. Third, you buy products that have been made from recyclables. If you skip any of these steps, recycling doesn't work!

Since you are the key to recycling success, now is a great time to commit yourself to being the best possible recycler. As you shop, look for packaging that is locally recyclable. For example, select the fruit punch in recyclable #1 PETE plastic bottles instead of hard-to-recycle juice bags or boxes. Then, be sure to rinse and recycle the empty container. Also, if you don't see recycling bins when you're out, be sure to carry your empty bottles home for recycling.

And, of course, buy recycled! To do this, you need to read labels and look for words such as "post-consumer recycled-content," which means that someone like you used recyclables and collected them before a manufacturer turned them into the new item you're holding. If you look, you'll be able to find recycled-content office and school supplies, fleece hoodies, building products, and more. Some

products are almost always made from recycled materials, such as aluminum and steel cans and cardboard boxes.

Each fall, the national America Recycles effort reminds people that recycling is a simple activity which saves energy, conserves resources, reduces air and water pollution, and helps create jobs. For more information about America Recycles 2010, visit www.americarecyclesday.org.



Recycle all of these items in Irvine's curbside 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 (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, pet food, vegetable juice, and coffee cans
- Empty aerosol cans (completely empty)
- Pie tins
- Paint cans (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.us, or call the Irvine Recycles Hotline at 949-724-7669.

Water-saving tips for rainy season



Reducing outdoor water use, especially during southern California's rainy season, is a great way to conserve our water resources and save money. Because we have experienced several years of drought, it will take more than one or two good rainy seasons for our water reserves to catch up. In the meantime, you can make a difference by conserving water outdoors.

Here are some water-saving (and, thus, money-saving) ideas:

- By the end of September, solar radiation is already halfway to its winter lows. Now is the time to reset your irrigation timer so that you aren't overwatering.
- You can save 25 gallons of water per watering just by adjusting the time of day for your sprinklers. When you water before 8 a.m., temperatures are cooler and wind speeds are lower. This results in less evaporation—so more of the water you are paying for ends up on your lawn and landscaping!
- If you adjust your sprinkler heads to be sure that you are watering plants only and not the house, street, sidewalk, driveway, or gutters, you can save about 15 gallons each time you water.
- Mulching around plants and trees keeps the soil cooler and reduces evaporation, saving 20 to 30 gallons for each 1,000 square feet on each watering.
- How “smart” are your sprinklers? A rain sensor or a weather-adjusting controller can save you hundreds of gallons of water, especially during rainy season.
- Get out a broom to clean off driveways and sidewalks instead of using the hose to spray them off. The water savings? As much as 150 gallons each time!

For more water-saving ideas, both inside and outside, visit www.irwd.com/allwayswatersmart.html or www.cityofirvine.us/water_home.php.

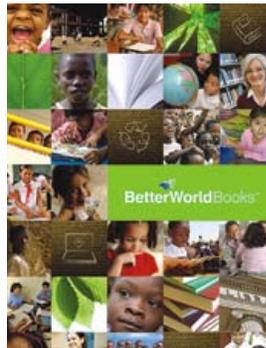
Books for a better world

Describing itself as a “for-profit social venture,” Better World Books earns money by selling new and used books. However, financial profit isn't the only motive; the company also strives to generate a social profit by contributing to improvements in literacy. Since it was founded in 2002, Better World Books has given more than 2.8 million books to partner literacy programs in the U.S. and around the world and donated over \$8.6 million to fund global literacy efforts.

In addition, the company has kept more than 34.8 million books out of landfills!

Reusable books come to Better World Books from book drives for used books and textbooks through a network of over 1,800 college campuses and partnerships with over 2,000 libraries and thrift stores nationwide. These books are either sold, sent to a non-profit literacy partner program, or recycled if unsuitable for use.

Better World Books has more than 6 million titles in stock and offers free shipping throughout the U.S. For more information, visit www.betterworldbooks.com.



A good gift

The City of Irvine's Environmental Programs website, www.cityofirvine.us, provides information on charities and other organizations that accept donations of autos, clothing, books, and more. Simply click on the “Zero Waste” link.

Usable clothing is accepted in the Planet Aid drop-off bin at Waste Management's buyback center in Irvine. The center is located at 16122 Construction Circle East.

Getting and giving



The Freecycle Network is made up of 4,834 groups with 7,341,000 members across the globe. People who belong to this network, “freecyclers,” are part of local, online communities devoted to one thing—keeping stuff out of landfills by giving it away. Freecycle is a nonprofit network of people giving away (and getting) stuff in their own towns.

Each Freecycle group is local and independent, but all groups follow a few simple guidelines—everything offered or accepted must be free, legal, and appropriate for all ages. Membership in a local group is free, and it is easy to join, usually just requiring a step or two to get started. Members can post items that they would like to receive (Wanted) or items they would like to give away (Offer). An email alerts all members of these postings. People give away and get office and school supplies, clothes and shoes, sports equipment, books and magazines, toys and games, home decorating items, furniture, computer accessories, sheets and towels, CDs, DVDs, and so much more.

To learn more, visit www.freecycle.org. To join the Irvine Freecycle group, go to <http://groups.freecycle.org/FreecycleIrvine/posts/all>.

One Change

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? Here's an idea—give up bottled water. If you buy one bottle of water a day from a vending machine or store, you are spending at least \$500 more per year than you would spend for the same amount of tap water. Even if you are buying water by the case on sale, you're probably spending an extra \$50-95 per year. Aside from the cost, what about the waste? At a bottle a day, that is 365 water bottles. If you were getting all of the water you need per day – about 64 ounces – from bottles, you would be using and discarding four bottles a day, which is 1,460 bottles per year per person!



Instead of buying bottled water, fill your own reusable bottle, use a glass, or get a drink at the water fountain. If you are using a refillable bottle, be sure to wash it with hot, soapy water between uses, or, if it is dishwasher safe, put it in the dishwasher. If you are worried about germs, label the bottles so that each family member has his or her own bottle. If you don't like the taste of your tap water, purchase a water-filtering pitcher and keep it in the fridge.

There will be times when you are thirsty and a water bottle is your only, or the best available, choice. Remember to recycle those plastic water bottles!

What do I need?

OFTEN WHEN LOOKING AT A MASS OF THINGS FOR SALE, HE WOULD SAY TO HIMSELF, "HOW MANY THINGS I HAVE NO NEED OF!" – SOCRATES

Yes, over 2,400 years ago, the philosopher Socrates was going to the market and finding many things offered that he didn't really need! How many times have you had that same feeling? You were at a store, you had an item in your hand, you were headed toward the checkout, and suddenly, you thought, "I don't really need this."

When it comes to shopping for things we may want, but don't necessarily need, it's a good idea to think before heading to the checkout counter. The Center for a New American Dream's Conscious Consumption program invites all of us to ask these questions as we shop:

- Is this something I need?
- Do I already own something that could serve the same purpose?
- Can I borrow one, find one used, or make one instead of buying new?
- Was it made locally?
- Was it made with environmentally preferable materials?
- Will it serve more than one purpose?
- Will it be easy and cost-effective to maintain?
- Does it come with excessive packaging?
- Can I recycle or compost it when I'm done with it?
- If I'm still not sure, can I wait a month before deciding whether to buy it?

In asking and answering these questions, we will ultimately decide to buy many things that we want. But when we do so, we'll be selecting them for their utility or for their capacity to enrich our experiences and enjoyment. Instead of buying on impulse, we'll be buying with intention.

When we choose to consume more consciously, we will probably also save money and create less waste that we must reuse, recycle, or dispose.

TRICK-OR-TREAT

Halloween is a "spooktacular" time to reuse. That's why ChicoBag and Green Halloween are inviting children (ages 1-13) to create designs for a reusable Halloween treat bag. All entries must be received by November 5, 2010. The top three designs will be posted on Facebook where ChicoBag's Facebook fans will be invited to vote for first, second, and third place. The winning design will become next year's "un-boo-lievable" and reusable trick-or-treat bag. Winners will receive cash prizes and eco-friendly goodies in a Halloween ChicoBag. For details about the contest, go to http://www.chicobag.com/t-green_halloween.aspx.

To learn more about enjoying a green Halloween, visit www.GreenHalloween.org, <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/halloween/>, or www.recycleguys.org/images/seasonal/halloween.htm.



Thankful, not wasteful

At Thanksgiving, families and friends gather for a feast that kicks off the holiday season. Whether your gathering features board games, football, basketball in the driveway, or movies, chances are, the focus is on the food and the conversation that surrounds it. Make your event this year filled with thanks, but light on waste.



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- Use email to invite guests, coordinate food assignments, share recipes, and more. Have a large family or group? Set up a Facebook group or send an Evite online.
- Count heads. Find out who is coming and who is not so that you can plan to have plenty of, but not too much, food. For the meal, you need to plan for about one serving of turkey, four side servings, and one dessert per person.
- Design the menu with care. If no one likes cranberry relish, don't make it. If cornbread dressing was a hit last year, make it and skip the oyster dressing. Go for appetizers that are tasty, but light. If you want to introduce an exotic food or ingredient, pair it with something familiar.

- Dress up the house with reusable fall decorations, such as festive tablecloths and vases, or choose edible or compostable decor, such as gourds, corn, pumpkins, apples, oranges, lemons, or fall foliage.
- Set the table with family heirlooms. This is the perfect time for Grandma's china or the cloth napkins that were a wedding gift. If you don't have enough plates, silverware, or glasses, borrow extras from a friend or consider renting what you need.
- Turn down the thermostat as guests begin to arrive. Allow body heat to keep your rooms comfortable. How many times have you had to open a window on Thanksgiving because the house was feeling stuffy?
- Make sure your guests know where to recycle bottles and cans.
- Plan a "Leftovers Party." Invite your friends over for an evening of games and ask each family to bring their Thanksgiving Day leftovers. This is a great way to sample other people's special holiday foods and keep your leftovers out of the trash.

Over the next few months, Thanksgiving is only one of the parties that you'll be planning or attending. The winter months are full of celebrations and get-togethers. From now through Super Bowl Sunday, enjoy your family and friends, feast away, and watch your waste!

50 Ways to Never Waste Food Again

Unwanted and spoiled food costs a family of four almost \$600 per year. During the holiday season, food waste goes up. Save money on food purchases and reduce food waste with the helpful tips at this website: <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/home-garden/ways-avoid-waste-food.html>



Recycling Stonehenge

If imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, then the prehistoric creators of Stonehenge should be quite pleased. The most famous of the stone circles in England, Stonehenge has been a source of controversy and curiosity. It has also spawned many imitators, including those using recycled materials.

In a recent article, Simone Preuss takes a look at "Seven Stonehenges Made From Recycled Materials." These include "stone circles" made from old cars, foam blocks, British-style phone booths, old refrigerators, decommissioned military tanks, porta-potties, and snow. Read the article and see photos of these "henges" at <http://1800recycling.com/2010/09/stonehenges-recycled-materials/>.

A blog, *Clonehenge*, boasts "the most complete list of Stonehenge replicas on the Internet" and contains a feature entitled, "The 65 Large Permanent Replicas." Read more about permanent and not-so-permanent Stonehenge replicas at this blog, <http://replicahenge.wordpress.com/>.

Roadside America, a website devoted to offbeat tourist attractions, has a feature on "America Unhinged." Go to www.roadsideamerica.com/set/OVERhenges.html.

FAST FACTS

Do oil and compost mix?

As cleanup related to the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico continues, compost may be part of the solution. Compost provides the perfect environment for bacteria and microscopic organisms that can break down hydrocarbons like those found in oil. This process is called “bioremediation.” With bioremediation, changes occur as contaminants or pollutants are metabolized by microorganisms and broken down into harmless, stable constituents, such as carbon dioxide, water, and salts.

Photo courtesy of Matter of Trust



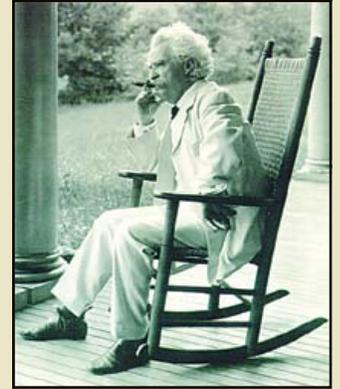
Textile me

Simple Shoes can make the soles for six pairs of shoes from a car tire. Byproducts of coconut husks help wick away sweat in Atayne’s running shirts. Fabric made from wood pulp and seaweed is being used for lingerie and loungewear. Fermented maize plant sugars are used to create a moisture-resistant, hypoallergenic fabric for bedding. Plastic soft drink bottles are being turned into polyester that becomes fleece blankets and hoodies. Organic cotton and plastic bottles make t-shirts of all shapes, sizes, and colors. If you are shopping for recycled-content clothing and footwear, you have many choices. Search for “recycled clothing” or “recycled shoes” online to see some of the options.

Clothing, shoe, and accessory reuse is and has long been a big business. Whether referred to as secondhand, vintage, or hand-me-down, they are all the same—a good deal! Plus, used items provide lots of variety and come in every size, style, and color. You’ll find never-worn, seldom-worn, and gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories. You probably won’t show up at a party in exactly the same sweater as a friend, either!

After textile products have reached the end of their useful lives, they can get second lives as new products. Denim blue jeans are being turned into home insulation. Shoes are being ground up and turned into running tracks and other athletic surfaces. Some fabric products become industrial rags, pet bed stuffing, and even casket liners.

QUOTES REQUOTED



A human being has a natural desire to have more of a good thing than he needs.

Mark Twain, 1835–1910
Following the Equator

American Novelist and Humorist

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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