

# Reusable News

April 2004



Disposal  
Reduction  
Update



Household  
Dump Day



## Environmental & Cultural Events:

Compost Giveaway, BFI Recyclery (9 a.m. - 1p.m.)	April 3
Earth Day Ceremony, Yellowstone Park (10 - Noon)	April 17
Milpitas Global Village, Cardoza Park (10 a.m. - 4p.m.)	May 1
Hazardous Waste Recycling (appointment required)	June 26

Curb Your Recycling  
the Right Way

Household  
Hazardous  
Wastes



# “Waste Not, Want Not”

Benjamin Franklin’s words have wise ecological meaning for us today. Every year Americans throw away 160 million tons of trash. Although California accounts for only 10% of the U.S. population, we produce 20% of our nation’s trash, or 32 million tons a year! In Milpitas, residents and businesses generated 118,974 tons in 2003.

Population growth, lifestyle changes, and excess packaging all contribute to increasing our “wastestream,” or what we send to the Newby Island Landfill.

Not wasting is as simple as the **4 R’s**: **Reduce**, **Reuse**, **Recycle** and **buy Recycled**.

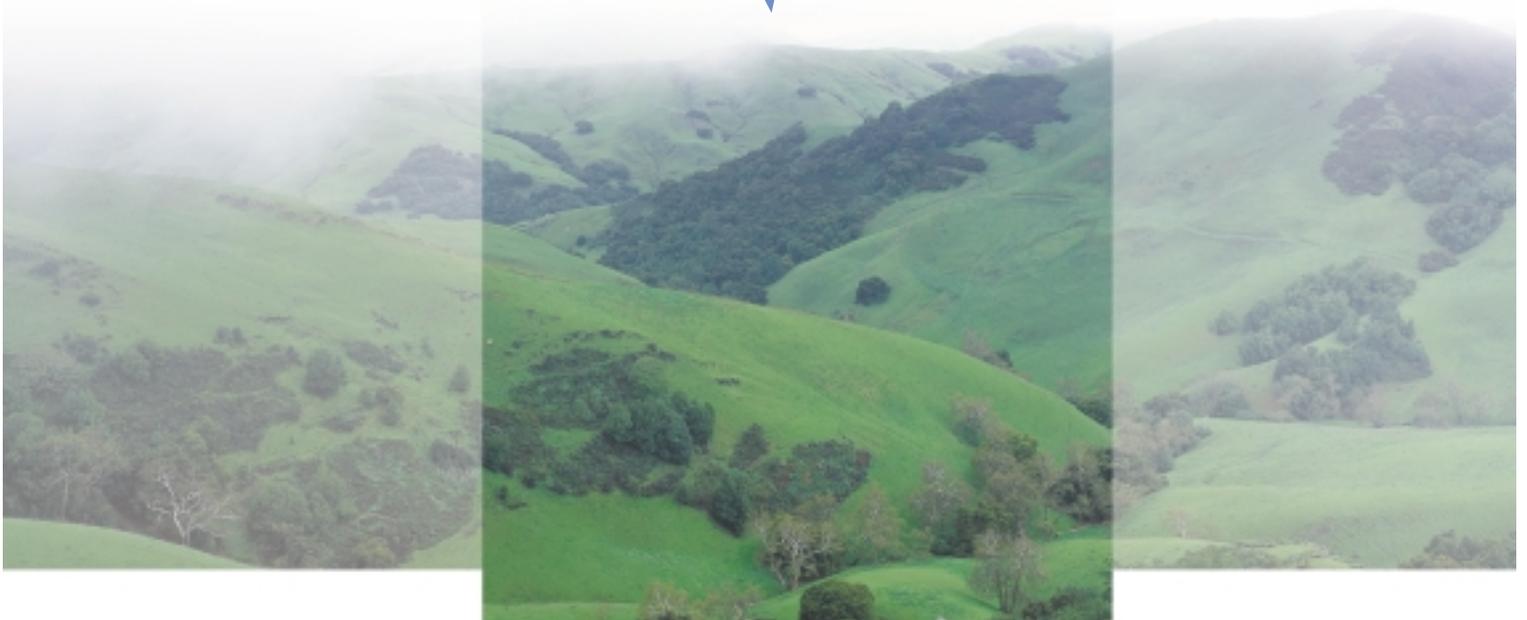
## The 4 R’s

**Reduce** what you use. Look for ways to get more use from a product rather than buying a replacement. Buy in bulk when possible to get only the amount you need.

**Reuse** what you can. Such as packaging materials, cloth and plastic tote bags, and washable plates, cups and utensils.

**Recycle** what you can’t reuse. Milpitas accepts plastic with  and molded Styrofoam (see “An Ounce of Prevention” for complete list).

**Buy Recycled.** Buying products made with recycled content and reduced packaging keeps waste out of the landfill. Look for these statements and symbols: Made with Recycled Paper, Post Consumer Recycled Packaging (means it was recycled after being purchased and used!),  usually means made with recycled content,  means the product packaging is recyclable, but not made from recycled content.



In April, we celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day. Let's reaffirm our commitment to preserve the environment and build a better future with these two important spring days.

Start by increasing the amount you recycle. It's one of the easiest and most effective ways we can do our part to celebrate Earth and Arbor Days year round. Recycling conserves natural

resources and reduces the amount of waste we send to the landfill.

### Recycling Progress Report

Since 1991, the amount of waste Milpitas residents and businesses have reduced annually has had its ups and downs – we're now down to 47% in 2002 from 52% in 2001. And, we're

still throwing away a lot of things that can be recycled – especially mixed paper and plastics. In fact, recent studies show that we are recycling less than a quarter of the waste materials that could be recycled or reused. Milpitas residents and businesses are doing a good job so far, and we can do even better.

So, get with the program – recycling that is! See "An Ounce of Prevention" for accepted materials.

earth day every day!

**How to set out your recycling and garbage:** Place stacked recycling tubs, flattened cardboard, approved used motor oil jugs, and garbage cans at the curb, or at your front property line, and the BFI garbage and yard trimmings carts in the street with wheels against the curb, in front of your home by 6 a.m. on your collection day.

*Please do not block the sidewalk at anytime.*

**The Solid Waste Management Ordinance (MMC 200-V-3.31) requires that recycling and garbage containers be stored in a side or back yard, out of public view at all times except for 12 hours before to 12 hours after a scheduled collection day.**

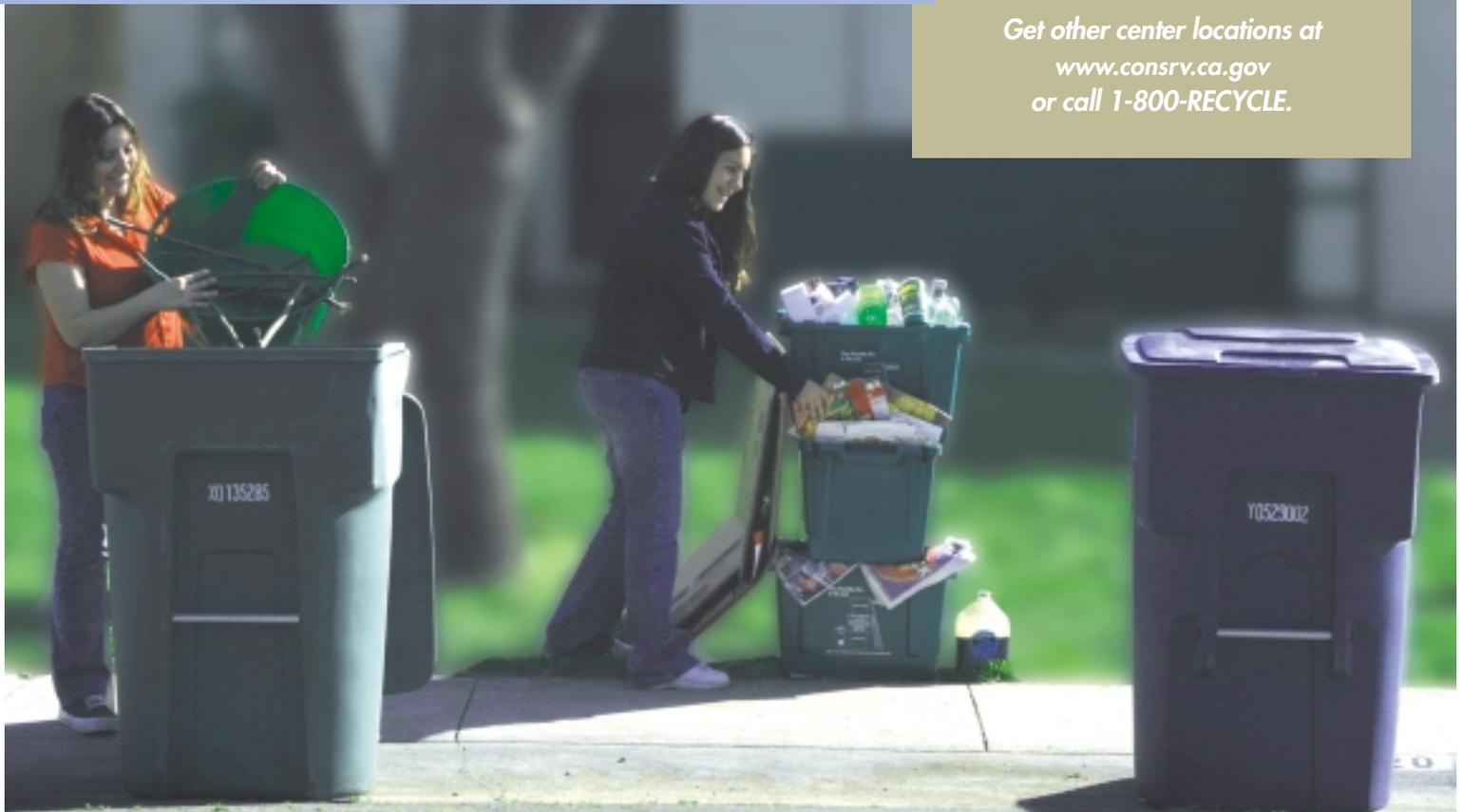
### Recycling Pays!

*If you want \$\$\$ for your recyclables, take beverage containers labeled "CA REDEMPTION VALUE" or "CA CASH VALUE" to an AB2020 Center in Milpitas:*

*1350 Park Victoria at Landess Ave.  
(near Albertson's)*

*401 Jacklin Rd., between Hillview & Milpitas Blvds. (near Nob Hill)*

*Get other center locations at  
[www.consrv.ca.gov](http://www.consrv.ca.gov)  
or call 1-800-RECYCLE.*



# An Ounce of Prevention...

## Is worth a pound of cure.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American threw away 5 pounds of garbage a day in 2002 – but only 2.7 pounds in 1960. Also, one in every six trucks on the roads in the U.S. is a garbage truck.

Recycling can offset garbage costs, extend the life of existing landfills and

reduce our dependence on raw materials, but not all by itself. Here's what you can recycle every week at home:



## For apartments and single family homes

- Glass bottles & jars
- Aluminum and metal cans
- Plastic containers with  Please, no black plastic.
- Molded Styrofoam. Sorry, "peanuts" NOT accepted.
- Mixed paper
- Newspapers
- Flattened cardboard

## For single family homes only

- Approved motor oil jugs available at Milpitas Fire Stations
- Yard Trimmings in green carts provided by BFI

## Bimonthly Solid Waste Rates

- Single Family homes: \$44.84
- Townhomes: \$34.00
- Senior Citizen Discount: \$22.42 for up to two 32-gallon cans or one 64-gallon BFI cart.
- Optional BFI garbage cart rental: \$5.06
- Bulky Item Pick-up: \$43.42 for the first two items and \$16.36 for each additional item. Appliances with refrigerants cost an additional \$32.28 each.

## Recycle Mercury!

Illegal disposal of products with mercury contaminate our water supply. Thermometers, batteries, fluorescent lights, and thermostats are common household items that contain dangerous levels of mercury.

Contact the **Hazardous Waste Recycling Hotline at 299-7300** or [www.hhw.org](http://www.hhw.org) to recycle these and other hazardous wastes.

Mark your calendar for Milpitas' drop-off event **Saturday, June 26.**

**Appointment required.**



# Not-Really-Free Dump Day!

Household Dump Day is a valuable service available at no additional charge to Milpitas residents hauling waste generated at home. Actual costs of this service aren't paid directly from your solid waste rate and may increase your utility bill in the future. That's why it's important to reduce what we take to the landfill.

## Basic Entrance Requirements:

- 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month only.
- City of Milpitas Municipal Services Bills are valid for one year from the Billing Date.
- Each bill is good for one load only.
- Loads may not exceed one ton capacity (weight estimate plus measurement of 4 cubic yards).
- Loads over one ton capacity will be charged the difference at current landfill pricing.
- Matching last names or address required or valid Municipal Services Bill and driver license.
- Trailers with waste hauled in the towing vehicle require two valid bills.
- Call BFI at 432-0444 if you don't receive this bill.

## Helpful Hints:

- Always cover loads hauled in open bed trucks and trailers.
- For more than one trip each day or month, save bimonthly Municipal Services Bills for one year.

## Location & Hours:

- West end of Dixon Landing Road, across I-880
- 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 2nd & 4th Saturdays Only

## Charges:

- \$4 for each tire.
- \$27.50 for each refrigerated appliance (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners).



## Graffiti?!

On my cart and cans?

Yes, but not for long! Graffiti is best removed immediately because it affects property value and your neighborhood's image. Left unchecked, graffiti encourages additional vandalism to your property. The best way to remove graffiti is to call **BFI Customer Service** at **432-0444**. BFI carts and recycling tubs are cleaned or replaced free, but you will need to clean or replace your garbage cans.



# We've Got a Better Way

Get rid of household items without waiting in line, find someone that needs it, and save landfill space! Contact the **Center for Development of Recycling** at 800-533-8414 or [www.recyclestuff.org](http://www.recyclestuff.org)

Household Dump Day gets a lot of stuff. Some of it's junk, some of it's not. Fact is, Household Dump Day generated 2,728 tons last year, or 13,485 cubic yards. That's enough to fill a 10-story building!

A few phone calls and a little planning makes a big difference. Give CDR a call first. Find out who'll take your unwanted stuff. Drop it off. Then, use Household Dump Day in good conscience.



**Printed on 100% Recycled Paper with 35% Post Consumer Content. Funded in part by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling.**

## Milpitas Resident

### Contact Us! We're here to help you with recycling and garbage services:

BFI Customer Service 432-0444  
Center for Development of Recycling 800-533-8414  
[www.recyclestuff.org](http://www.recyclestuff.org), click on: Recycling Search  
Hazardous Materials Recycling 299-7300  
[www.hhw.org](http://www.hhw.org), click on: Operating Schedule

City of Milpitas, Recycling Hotline 586-2680  
[www.ci.Milpitas.ca.gov](http://www.ci.Milpitas.ca.gov), click on: Recycle at Home!

Approved Motor Oil Jugs: go to nearest Milpitas Fire Station

Home Composting 918-4640  
[www.reducewaste.org](http://www.reducewaste.org), click on: Home Composting  
AB2020 Recycling Centers 1-800-RECYCLE  
[www.consrv.ca.gov](http://www.consrv.ca.gov), click on: Beverage Container Recycling

# Odor Complaint Process



The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the regional agency that investigates odor complaints.

If you detect an odor, you should call BAAQMD's toll free hotline:

(800) 334-ODOR or (800) 334-6367

You may call this number at anytime.

Be sure to make the complaint immediately so the inspector can begin to trace the odor.

**This information is needed to submit a complaint. It is important to provide facts so an inspector may contact you and to discuss your observation.**

Describe Odor (see right)  
Date/Time of Odor  
Location of Odor  
Name  
Phone Number  
Alternate (cell or day phone)  
Address

**When logging an incident, try to associate the odor with something familiar:**

Rotten eggs  
Burning plastic  
Asphalt  
Sewage/fecal matter  
Garbage  
Rotting vegetation  
Compost

Other useful descriptions are oily, musty, metallic, pungent, light or heavy.

**Helpful information is whether the odor is fleeting but recurring, or constant for longer periods.**