We Can Make History...Again

In 1982, Sunnyvale became the second city in California to adopt a curbside recycling program. Sunnyvale started its program collecting recyclables in burlap bags, then graduated to three colored crates and finally, in 2001, issued a split-lid cart for single-family and two separate carts for multi-family residential recycling. Sunnyvale has maintained the dual-stream recycling method — collecting paper and containers separately at the curb — to reduce materials contamination, ensuring cleaner feedstock and higher recycling market revenues. In 1996, due to high participation rates of residents and businesses, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) awarded Sunnyvale a Certificate of Achievement for having met state-mandated 50 percent diversion goals four years ahead of schedule.

In 2008, City Council adopted a Zero Waste policy. In 2013, Council adopted a Zero Waste Strategic Plan outlining actions that will help the City move from its current 66 percent diversion rate to 70 percent in 2015, 75 percent by 2020 (paralleling a new state waste reduction and diversion mandate), and 90 percent by 2030. Achieving Zero Waste goals will require collecting more materials curbside, composting residential and commercial organics, increasing recycling in multi-family communities, expanding outreach and education, and improving technologies for recovering even more recyclables and organic material at the SMaRT Station®.

This reNews issue focuses on Sunnyvale’s recycling and waste reduction services, and the inserted 2015 Recycling Events Calendar provides details about upcoming events — designed to help the community reduce the waste generated, keep still-useful items in circulation and out of the landfill, and recycle more than just bottles, cans and paper.

City staff and service partners are gearing up to implement new programs to meet Zero Waste goals. It will take a commitment from the community not only to compost and recycle even more materials as new programs are implemented, but also change their purchasing behaviors in order to reduce what is thrown away. But, given the community’s interest in participating in recycling programs, confidence is high that a collaborative approach to waste reduction will achieve the Council’s Zero Waste goals — and Sunnyvale can make history...again.
Sunnyvale Recycles
Your Guide to Recycling Right — at Home

Sunnyvale uses a dual-stream recycling process — using separate carts to collect recyclable paper and metal, glass and plastic containers at the curb. Where you live determines which carts and collection services are available. Single-family service provides garbage and recycling carts to residents living in single-family, duplex or triplex homes and mobile home parks. Multi-family service provides shared garbage bins and two recycling carts to residents living in four-or-more unit apartment and townhome communities. This guide shows what and how to recycle where you live.

**Recycle Paper**

**Residential Recycling Carts**

**Recycle Metal, Glass, Plastic #1-#7**

**Single-Family Service Guide**

**Corrugated cardboard** — FLATTEN boxes, tape or tie in 30x30x6-inch bundles, place at the curb.

**Used motor oil/filters** — Use City-issued gallon jugs and zip-locked bags for oil and filters. Contact Utilities Customer Service for jugs and bags (408) 730-7400. Place at curb.

**Batteries** — Tape positive ends, seal in zip-locked bag, place on top of split-lid recycling cart.

**To Ensure Service:**
- Place carts at curb by 7 a.m., remove from public view once serviced.
- Allow a two-foot space between carts for automated collection.
- Do not block driveways, storm drains or meter boxes.
- Overfilled carts may not be serviced.

**Single-Family Set-Out**

Proper set-out for carts, cardboard, batteries and used motor oil and filters.

**Reduce Contamination**

**DO NOT PLACE BAGGED RECYCLABLES INSIDE RECYCLING CARTS**

- Remove plastic sleeves from newspapers, magazines.
- No plastic, metal or glass containers in paper carts.
- Wipe or lightly rinse out containers.
- No hazardous materials in bins or carts.

**Multi-Family Service Guide**

**Corrugated cardboard** — FLATTEN boxes and place in garbage bins — cardboard is removed and recycled at the SMaRT Station.

**Used motor oil/filters** — Take to SMaRT Station for recycling or to certified oil-changing locations. Visit Recycling.inSunnyvale.com, How to recycle, Motor Oil for locations.

**Batteries** — Tape positive ends, take to SMaRT Station.

**To Ensure Service:**
- Garbage must be placed INSIDE garbage bins.
- Overfilled bins or carts may not be serviced.
- Close lids on bins and carts to reduce litter.
- Do not abandon items in waste areas.
- Dispose of large items or extra garbage at the SMaRT Station.

**Multi-Family Waste Collection Area**

Keep lids closed, waste areas clean and litter-free.
Convenient Events Available to Sunnyvale Community

The City offers convenient, no-cost recycling events to the community to promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

Composting Workshops

The City hosts monthly composting workshops where Master Composters teach residents how to compost their yard trimmings and food scraps. Organic materials accelerate anaerobic decomposition in landfills, producing methane, a greenhouse gas linked to climate change. Composting organics instead yields many benefits. When compost is added to soil, it:

- Recomposes poor, and chemically-treated soil;
- Reduces the need for chemical fertilizers or insecticides;
- Reduces watering needs as compost naturally retains moisture;
- Returns valuable nutrients to the soil; and
- Reduces garbage costs by reducing waste.

Learn to compost this year! Visit ReduceWaste.org/Classes, or call (408) 730-4640 to pre-register for a workshop.

Citywide Garage Sale Day

On September 12, the City will host the 24th annual Citywide Garage Sale Day. Sellers can register sales and the City will pay for the advertising. Garage sales promote reuse and divert valuable resources from the landfill. Join the fun and register your sale at CitywideGarageSaleDay.com beginning July 2015.

Document Shredding

The City hosts document shredding events to help residents guard against identity theft. Since 2010, these popular events have generated nearly 235 tons of paper which have been recycled for the advertising. Garage sales promote reuse and divert valuable resources from the landfill.

For years, residents have attended HHW Drop-off events to dispose of their hazardous materials at 164 Carl Road. As construction proceeds to rebuild the City’s Water Pollution Control Plant, we now need to relocate our HHW Drop-off facility. From January through June, HHW drop-off events will continue at 164 Carl Road, on the third Saturdays of each month, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Beginning in July, the Carl Road location will close and residents will have two hazardous disposal options:

1. Quarterly HHW Drop-off events at a new location in Sunnyvale (July 18, October 17); and
2. Weekly HHW Drop-off events in San Jose – The County will accept hazardous materials at their new San Jose facility every Friday, 8 a.m. to noon, and every Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (except on holidays).

Appointments are required for both options. To schedule an appointment, and for more information and location details, visit the County’s convenient, self-serve appointment system at HHW.org — click the green button — or call (408) 299-7300.

Document Shredding

The City hosts document shredding events to help residents guard against identity theft. Since 2010, these popular events have generated nearly 235 tons of paper which have been recycled into new paper products. Residents of Mountain View, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale are encouraged to attend. Proof of residency required.

Extra Dumping Weekends

For four weekends each year, Sunnyvale residents may dispose of non-hazardous garbage during Extra Dumping Weekends at the SMART Station. Residents are encouraged to recycle, sell or donate items using Freecycle Sunnyvale, Craigslist or TrashNothing, before sending them to the landfill forever.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-off Events – Change is Coming!

For years, residents have attended HHW Drop-off events to dispose of their hazardous materials at 164 Carl Road. As construction proceeds to rebuild the City’s Water Pollution Control Plant, we now need to relocate our HHW Drop-off facility. From January through June, HHW drop-off events will continue at 164 Carl Road, on the third Saturdays of each month, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Make An Appointment

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fit ‘n Fun Earth Day Fair

Don’t miss the Fit ’n Fun Earth Day Fair celebration on April 25, at the Columbia Neighborhood Center. The Sunnyvale community is invited to attend the celebration of health and wellness with special entertainment, food, music and kids’ crafts in honor of Earth Day 2015.

Greenlight Film Festival

Create a video to portray how our actions impact the environment and win $1,000 in prizes! Open to all ages, submission deadline is March 27. Visit MidPenMedia.org/Greenlight for details or call (650) 494-8686.

Call for Entries

GREENLIGHT FILM FESTIVAL

THURSDAY / APRIL 23, 2015 / 7:00-9:30 PM
Cubberley Theater / 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Entries must be received by Friday, March 27, 2015

World Water Monitoring Day Challenge — Volunteers Needed

The City of Sunnyvale and the Stevens & Permanente Creeks Watershed Council invite you to our local World Water Monitoring Challenge event. Fun-to-do monitoring activities include water quality testing, observations of insects in the creek, kids’ crafts and watershed pollution prevention presentations.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome — children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Due to space limitations, participation is limited to the first 40 pre-registered volunteers. For more information, or to sign up for the event, call (408) 730-7717 or e-mail Green@sunnyvale.ca.gov.

Mercury Fever Thermometer Exchange & MedDrop

Wednesday, March 18
11 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
Sunnyvale Senior Center
Sequoia Room

The thermometer exchange and med-drop event offers safe, proper disposal of medications and mercury-containing fever thermometers. As hazardous materials, they must not be flushed or poured down sewer or storm drains or onto the ground.

Thermometer Exchange — The first 100 individuals dropping off a mercury thermometer will receive a free, solar digital fever thermometer in exchange (limit one per household). Place mercury fever thermometers in an unbreakable, closed container — its original case, a plastic toothbrush holder, or a soda or water bottle with a screw-on cap. Next, place the sealed container inside a plastic zip-locked bag.

MedDrop — Unwanted prescriptions, ointments and creams and over-the-counter medications may also be dropped off for safe disposal. Remove pills from containers and place them in a sealed zip-locked bag. Remove all personal information from ointments, liquids and creams. This event does not accept needles (sharps), medical equipment or personal hygiene items.

Cubberley Theater / 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Sunday, March 21
10 a.m. – noon
Stevens Creek at West Valley Elementary School
1635 Belleville Way
Free event • Pre-registration required

The City of Sunnyvale and the Stevens & Permanente Creeks Watershed Council invite you to our local World Water Monitoring Challenge event. Fun-to-do monitoring activities include water quality testing, observations of insects in the creek, kids’ crafts and watershed pollution prevention presentations.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome — children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Due to space limitations, participation is limited to the first 40 pre-registered volunteers. For more information, or to sign up for the event, call (408) 730-7717 or e-mail Green@sunnyvale.ca.gov.
Commercial Recycling Services

In support of Council’s Zero Waste goals, the Sunnyvale Commercial Recycling Program works with businesses to ensure compliance with AB 341, California’s mandatory commercial recycling law. Staff-provided audits identifying resource conservation and waste reduction opportunities can help businesses reduce garbage costs by recycling cardboard, bottles, cans and metal.

The Recycling Program publishes the quarterly Business Recycling Solutions (BRS) newsletter that offers green tips, and showcases local businesses and steps they have taken to green their operations and save money. Benefit your business and subscribe to the BRS at Recycling.inSunnyvale.com, select Commercial under Recycling Services.

Another program supported by staff is the California Green Business Program. Forty Sunnyvale businesses have achieved California Green Business Program certification with technical support from City staff. Many have found the application checklist a useful tool in finding opportunities to conserve energy and water, reduce waste and embrace pollution prevention measures that also help reduce overhead costs. If you are interested in becoming a Green Business, visit GreenBusinessCa.org.

Landfill Drilling Project Replaces Five Gas Wells

Closed since 1993, the Sunnyvale landfill looked more like an oil field last October when a drilling rig was seen on top of the landfill installing five new gas wells. After performing field inspections using a camera-equipped probe, City staff discovered that some PVC plastic well pipes had been pinched, collapsed or sheared off as a result of decomposing garbage that had settled and shifted during the past 27 years. New high-density polyethylene wells were vertically drilled 40-60 feet into the garbage to replace five poorly-performing wells. These new gas wells are expected to boost the gas collection efficiency of the landfill gas well field. The replaced wells will be disconnected from the gas collection system and properly sealed.

In 1987, 79 gas wells were installed to comply with air quality regulations and capture landfill gas produced by biological decomposition of the 2.5 million tons of garbage entombed in the landfill. Piped to the power generation facility at the adjacent Water Pollution Control Plant, the landfill gas combines with digester and natural gas, and is burned by large generators producing electricity to operate the plant.

Did You Know?

Construction Projects Require “Specialty” Service

When planning your next construction or remodeling project, confirm with your contractor that Specialty Solid Waste & Recycling (Specialty) will be responsible for hauling construction or demolition (C&D) debris. Only Specialty debris boxes are legally permitted for the collection and transportation of C&D. Specialty delivers all materials to the SMaRT Station where they are processed for recycling.

To order a debris box, call Utilities Customer Service at (408) 730-7400. The City recommends placing debris boxes on the property, rather than on the street where they are limited to 30 days prior to mandatory removal.

<table>
<thead>
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Using non-Specialty debris boxes constitutes a violation of Sunnyvale Municipal Code (SMC) 8.16.170, and may result in fines and impound fees. (Limited exceptions do apply, see SMC 8.16.110.) To anonymously report the use of non-Specialty debris boxes in the City, call (408) 730-7469.

Specialty offers various debris box sizes for every project.

The Environmental Services Department offers a variety of events for the community to attend. Use the Recycling Events Calendar in this issue as a reference to events.

Document Shredding Events

May 30, August 22, November 7
8 a.m. to noon
SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Road

Compost Workshops
February 14, March 14
10 a.m. to noon
To register for a workshop, call (408) 918-4640, or register at ReduceWaste.org/Classes. Registration required.
Las Palmas Park building
600 Russet Drive, Sunnyvale

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off Events
January 17, February 21, March 21
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
No-cost HHW disposal.
164 Carl Road through June. Note: Sunnyvale-based events will be held at a new location beginning July, and move to a quarterly schedule. Schedule an appointment — visit HHW.org, or call (408) 299-7500 for details.

Contact Us

City Business Hours
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
City TDD (408) 730-7501

Utilities Customer Service
(408) 730-7400
Utilities.inSunnyvale.com
- Start, stop or change garbage and water services
- Cart orders, repairs, replacements
- On-Call Collection appointments
- Debris box rentals

Recycling Program
(408) 730-7262
Recycling.inSunnyvale.com
Recycling@Sunnyvale.ca.gov
- Recycling answers and event details

Specialty Solid Waste & Recycling
(408) 565-9900, SSWR.com
- Missed pickups
- Collection service issues

SMaRT Station®
301 Carl Road, Sunnyvale
(408) 752-8530
Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Closed Thanksgiving Day, December 25, January 1
- Garbage disposal fees
- Compost and mulch availability

Water Pollution Control Plant
1444 Borregas Ave., (408) 730-7738
WPCP.inSunnyvale.com
- Plant Tours
- Environmental Outreach

Thanksgiving Day, December 25, January 1

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