



sunnyvale reNews

Summer 2016



sunnyvale's environmental news source



upcoming events

July 9, August 13, September 10
Compost Workshops

July 16, October 15
Hazardous Waste Drop-off

August 27, November 5
Document Shredding

October 1-2, 8-9
Extra Dumping Weekends

stay connected

on the Web
Recycling.inSunnyvale.com



on Twitter
[@SunnyvaleRecycl](https://twitter.com/SunnyvaleRecycl)



Green.inSunnyvale.com



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[Sunnyvale
Environmental Services](https://www.facebook.com/SunnyvaleEnvironmentalServices)



New SMaRT Station Equipment Enables Smarter Diversion

Did you know that all recyclables and garbage you place at the curb are taken to the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer Station, better known as the SMaRT Station®? Recyclables collected from residents at the curb account for 73 percent of the recyclables SMaRT sorters and equipment process for recycling markets while the other 27 percent of curbside-collected recyclables comes from other sources in the community.

Recyclables collected from residential sources are manually and mechanically sorted to remove contaminants and ensure higher market value. Garbage is also sorted to recover recyclables that were disposed of as garbage, though recyclables recovered from the garbage tend to be of lower value due to more contamination as they move through the garbage system; they may be bulky items — recyclable pieces of wood and concrete, scrap metal and mixed organics.

In light of the sheer volume of materials that must be processed — 1,000 tons per day — plus state and local 75 percent landfill diversion goals, the SMaRT Station operator, Bay Counties Waste Services, recently retro-fitted existing equipment to improve sorting capabilities. The new equipment increased recovery of recyclable metals, plastics and “fines” (small organic material) and has led to unprecedented diversion results.

New disk screens separate recyclable plastic and aluminum containers from the garbage, enabling sorters to easily see and pull them off

conveyor belts, diverting an extra 560 tons of recyclables from the landfill each year.

The screens have also increased the amount of compostable organic “fines” captured from the garbage by 28 percent, or 131 tons per day. A composting facility in Gilroy uses specialized equipment to remove bits of plastic, broken glass and rocks from organic “fines” to produce clean, marketable compost.

The new optical sorter processes 82 tons of curbside-collected recyclables daily, increasing processing speeds and reducing manual sorting, which frees five workers to sort materials elsewhere.

Even with these improvements to the SMaRT Station “mixed waste” sorting system, recycling at the curb by residents remains a key component of the City’s strategy for diverting materials from landfill. Environmental Programs Manager Karen Gissibl states, “Residents do a great job separating their recyclables; in fact they lead the way in diversion since that material is relatively clean and fetches higher market revenues to offset program costs. The materials disposed of as garbage require more intense sorting and processing to fully recover valuable resources — the SMaRT Station serves as the safety net for capturing those materials and is a key element in diversion.” The City will have to use multiple approaches to help reach the 75 percent diversion goal. ♻️



Lakewood Lions Pounce On Zero Waste

In March, City staff and a Leadership Sunnyvale team invited Lakewood Elementary School Principal, Pamela Cheng, and her student body to participate in a Zero Waste food collection and recycling pilot program. Since the program started, Lakewood has diverted 100 percent of its lunch food scraps and diverted a half cubic yard of recyclable milk cartons for recycling — equal to more than one ton of food scraps and 12 cubic yards of recyclables.

Lakewood's Zero Waste Program success is due to Cheng's commitment to enrich her students' educational experience and encourage responsibility toward a more sustainable future. Student volunteers, the Zero Waste Champions, often sacrificed recess to monitor waste separation activities. The Champions expressed that, "being a leader is important and makes (them) feel happy." With help from the

Champions and supportive custodial staff who transported the separated materials to the proper collection bins, students became proficient in emptying and recycling milk cartons. The food scraps from the program were processed and made into animal feed which motivated the children to keep contaminants out of the food.

At the Sunnyvale City Council meeting on May 17, Mayor Glenn Hendricks praised Principal Cheng and five Zero Waste Champions for their "leadership and efforts in sustainability, especially at an elementary school level." Not only has Lakewood achieved compliance with California's AB 1826 mandate requiring organics recycling, but it has furthered the City's own Zero Waste goals and commitment to reaching 75 percent diversion by 2020. Lakewood Lions are the pride of the new Zero Waste School Program! 🌱

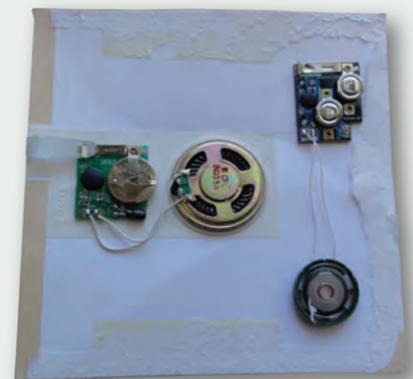


Lakewood students sort food into a compost collection bin.

Born to be Wild

The birthday card face reads, "Celebrating the Day You Were Born" and upon opening the card, Steppenwolf blasts "Born to be Wild." Consumer trends indicate that "singing" greeting cards are popular; they're fun to give AND get. Yet, did you know they can be hazardous upon disposal?

If you peel the card apart, you'll find the same type of electronics you'd find in a computer with the same toxic metals. To safely dispose of the card, remove the electronic components and recycle them with household batteries. Recycle the card itself in your paper recycling cart. Enjoy the sentiment and fun — but safely dispose of the electronics to help keep our environment safe and free of contamination. 🌱



Top 10 Hits from the Waste Wizard

The new app and online tool, *SunnyvaleRecyclesRight* has been very popular. (If you haven't checked it out, see the sidebar to the right.) Residents who download the app or use the online tool can enter their address for a personal calendar and request reminders for garbage collection days (even during holidays), pings about recycling events, where and how

to get rid of practically anything with the Waste Wizard look-up tool and, last but not least, be able to schedule their own On-Call collection appointments for extra garbage.

The Waste Wizard's top 10 most frequently searched materials and how to dispose of them are below. 🌱

ITEM	WHERE TO RECYCLE	DETAILS
Mattresses	SMaRT Station	Recycling at no charge
	On-Call Collection (single-family curbside service)	By appointment. Use the app to schedule or call (408) 730-7400
Bulky goods, furniture, large appliances	SMaRT Station	Per item disposal cost (408) 752-8530
	On-Call Collection (single-family curbside service)	By appointment. Use the app to schedule or call (408) 730-7400
Fluorescent bulbs/tubes	SMaRT Station	Recycling at no charge
Household batteries	SMaRT Station	Recycling at no charge
	Place on top of split-lid recycling cart (single-family only)	Place in zip-locked bag, tape positive terminals
Styrofoam packing blocks	Trash only	Place in residential garbage.
Peanuts	Reuse options	Donate to mail centers, UPS, etc.
Cardboard	Recycle (single-family)	Bundles (30" x 30" x 6") at curb
	Recycle (multi-family)	Place in large garbage bins, or dedicated cardboard bins (recycled at SMaRT Station)
Paint	SMaRT Station	Recycling at no charge
	SMaRT Station	Recycling at no charge, Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-5p.m. only
	<i>PaintCare.org</i> (more locations)	

Get the App!

Scan the QR codes below, or visit Recycling.inSunnyvale.com and click on "collection schedule and set up reminders." Make getting rid of your stuff quick, easy and convenient!





Clean Vehicles and a Clean Bay

Water from washing vehicles contains dirt, soap and automotive oils, and is further contaminated with heavy metals such as copper, nickel and zinc found in brake dust. Water from vehicles washed on paved driveways or streets can enter storm drains and flow untreated directly into the Bay, dumping contaminants into coastal waters which is toxic to fish, birds and marine life.

Protecting Our Bay — And Ourselves

The best way to protect our waterways and ourselves is to use a commercial car wash where drains are connected to the sewer system and local wastewater treatment facilities that can remove pollutants. Commercial car washes also use 60 percent less water and often recycle it.

If you choose to wash your vehicle at home, use these environmentally-friendly tips:

- Park vehicle on a grassy area, gravel driveway or unpaved surface where dirty water cannot enter a storm drain;
- Use rags to wipe brake dust off of wheels before washing;
- Use a hose nozzle with shut-off valve to conserve water;
- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free, water-based cleaners only and avoid chemical spray-on cleaners; and

- Pour wash water onto landscaping only if using recommended cleaners, otherwise, pour it down household sinks or toilets.

To learn more about preventing water pollution, or to get a Watershed Watch Discount Card for car washes, call Environmental Outreach at (408) 730-7717, TDD (408) 730-7501, send an email to Green@sunnyvale.ca.gov, or visit MyWaterShedWatch.org to print your own discount card. ☺



Help stop water pollution and keep wash water out of the Bay.

Students “Buzz” Greener Living for IGreenSunnyvale School Challenge

In January, the new *IGreenSunnyvale* mobile phone app first challenged Sunnyvale residents to “buzz” their sustainable actions to track their impact on the environment in terms of carbon dioxide emissions, reduced water use and reducing waste to the landfill. In celebration of Earth Day month, the City launched the *IGreenSunnyvale Students Living Green Challenge* capturing a younger audience — Sunnyvale students — who want to make a difference and have a positive impact on the environment by “buzzing” their greener lifestyle choices.

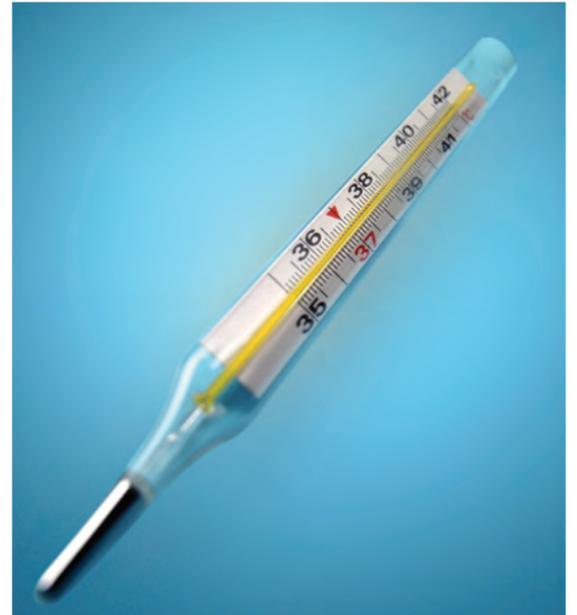
Fremont and Homestead high school and Sunnyvale, Cupertino and Columbia middle school students competed to see whose school could make the biggest impact. Students worked closely with City staff to design and post posters, promote the app on *Facebook*, and use classroom time to demonstrate to their peers how to download and use the app. App downloads increased from 282 to more than 600 and, even more impressive, was the collective impact during the 10-day challenge. Students prevented 24,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere, saved 31,000 gallons of water, and avoided producing nearly 3,000 pounds of waste.

The top three student “buzzers” from each school received prizes for their contributions. The Columbia Middle School team of 100 students won the challenge, completing more than 3,100 sustainable actions. Popular “buzzes” included using reusable water bottles, recycling and taking public transit to school.

You don’t have to be a student to get in on the fun. The *IGreenSunnyvale* free app is available in the Apple and Android app stores. It’s a fun way to learn more about taking everyday actions that can help prevent climate change, track your personal impact and participate in friendly competition within the community. ☺



Mercury Fever Thermometer Exchange & Medication Disposal Event



Proper Disposal of Mercury and Medications Ensures a Safe Environment

Wednesday — September 21, 2016
10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Sunnyvale Senior Center, Sequoia Room

Thermometer Exchange: Exchange your mercury thermometer for a free, solar digital fever thermometer — limit one per household. To avoid breakage and contamination, mercury fever thermometers **MUST** be contained in an unbreakable, closed container — the original case, a plastic toothbrush holder, or a soda/water bottle with a screw-on cap. The closed container **MUST ALSO** be placed in a plastic zip-locked bag. Other mercury-containing products **will not** be accepted.

MedDrop: Residents may drop-off unneeded prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. Place pills in a sealed zip-locked bag and remove all personal information from ointments, liquids and creams. Pill containers, sharps (needles and lancets), vitamins, or personal hygiene items will not be accepted.

For more information, call Environmental Outreach at (408) 730-7717, or email Green@sunnyvale.ca.gov.

Event co-sponsored by Sunnyvale’s Environmental Services Department, Department of Public Safety and the Senior Center.

July 9–17 IGreenSunnyvale Launches Neighborhoods Challenge

Join your neighbors in the Neighborhoods Challenge to distinguish your neighborhood as the most sustainable in Sunnyvale. Download the *IGreenSunnyvale* mobile app and start “buzzing” your sustainable actions. Visit Energize.InSunnyvale.com for details.





Refillable Gas Cylinders — Now Available at U-Haul!

In April 2015, George's Fuel and Auto Repair located at 996 E. Evelyn Ave. pioneered as California's first retailer to join the ReFuel Your Fun campaign that promotes reusable, refillable one-pound propane canisters. Kamps Propane first developed the "Little Camper," and just this June, U-Haul unveiled its version of the refillable canister. Why all the hubbub about reusable propane canisters?

In California alone, consumers dispose of more than four million disposable propane cylinders each year, creating a host of safety and environmental issues when it comes time to get rid of them. Disposable canisters create tons more waste and are often improperly disposed of in garbage and recycling carts, dumpsters,

landfills and campsites or abandoned on roadsides. "Empty" disposable canisters that still contain residual gas can be dangerous to sanitation and parks workers due to the risk of explosions and resulting fires.

Using refillable canisters can save money and reduce disposal costs — and waste. Consumers spend between \$4 and \$7 per disposable canister — costing cities \$1.20 per canister to properly dispose of them. While a filled reusable canister costs about \$12, it only costs \$1.95 to refill — and they last for 12 years.

Clearly, the smart choice is the environmentally-friendly refillable propane canisters. Visit RefuelYourFun.org to learn more and find all retail locations in California. ♻️



upcoming events

Document Shredding Events

**August 27 and November 5
8 a.m. to noon. Limit five bags or boxes, residents only.**

SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Road

Compost Workshops

**July 9, August 13, September 10
10 a.m. to noon**

Contact Ucanr.edu/Compost, or call (408) 918-4640 to register for a workshop. Bins and worms for sale after workshop.

*Murphy Park Building
250 N. Sunnyvale Ave., Sunnyvale*

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off Events

**July 16 and October 15
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment at the Sunnyvale drop-off, or at another nearby HHW facility in the County which is open weekly, visit the County of Santa Clara HHW Program at HHW.org, or call (408) 299-7300.

Extra Dumping Weekends

**October 1-2, 8-9
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., SMaRT Station**

Dispose of non-hazardous garbage at no cost. Uncovered loads must pay \$15 for a tarp.

Litter Clean-up Events

Volunteers for events should register at Green@Sunnyvale.ca.gov, or call (408) 730-7717.

State of the City Event

Come play with the Environmental Services staff at the State of the City, July 9. Special activities at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Sunnyvale Civic Center, 456 W. Olive Ave.

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



Choose Refillables

\$ Save Money & the Environment!



**The Problem -
Disposables***



**The Solution -
Refillables**



*Disposable cylinders need to be taken to a household hazardous waste event for proper disposal. Go to HHW.org for information.

Don't see your favorite retailer listed below? Ask them to sell refillables!

Supported by:





Funded by a grant from CalRecycle: 

CHOOSE REFILLABLES!

<p>Hassett Ace Hardware - Palo Alto 875 Alma Street Palo Alto, CA 94301 650-327-7222</p> <p>Stanford Outdoor Center 285 Santa Teresa Street Stanford, CA 94305 650-736-7768</p>	<p>George's Fuel & Auto Repair 996 West Evelyn Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94086 408-733-2221</p> <p>U-Haul - Mountain View 62 West El Camino Real Mountain View, CA 94040 650-965-3151</p>
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Visit ReFuelYourFun.org for a full list of participating retailers

Make Litter Extinct Volunteer for California Coastal Clean-up Day

Registration begins at 8:40 a.m. and clean-up activities will run from 9 a.m. until noon. Gloves, pick-up sticks and trash bags will be provided. Volunteers are encouraged to bring

their own reusable water bottles for the event. For questions, or to register for Sunnyvale's California Coastal Clean-up Day, call (408) 730-7717 or e-mail Green@sunnyvale.ca.gov. ♻️



Volunteers can help make litter extinct!