



sunnyvale reNews

Winter 2017

sunnyvale's environmental news source



Curbside Food Scraps Collection is Coming Your Way!

upcoming events

February 11, March 11, April 8
Compost Workshops

January 21, April 15
Hazardous Waste Drop-off

March 18
Document Shredding

April 1-2, 8-9
Extra Dumping Weekends

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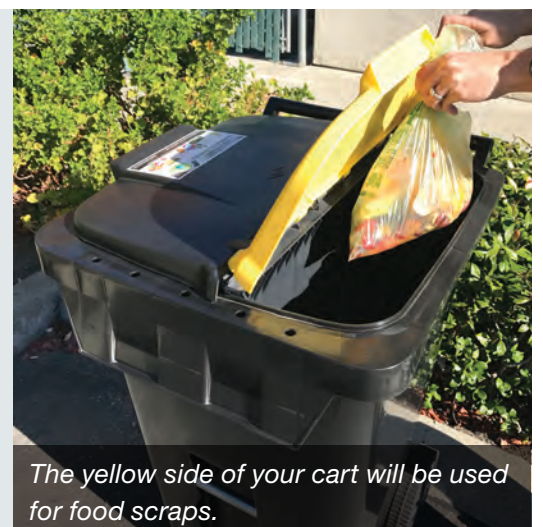
At its September 20, 2016 meeting, the Sunnyvale City Council unanimously approved a citywide Residential Food Scraps Collection Program for single family households, small apartments and businesses receiving cart service for garbage. The program is based on a pilot project conducted for nine months in 2015. The pilot served 500 households and enjoyed a 73 percent participation rate. The new program will use split carts which are similar to those used for recycling. In addition to a divided curbside cart, collection trucks will also be divided so that food and garbage remain separated. Once the food scraps are collected, they will be processed into animal feed (see article, page 9), so keeping the material clean and free of non-food residue will be vital to the program's success. The garbage side of the cart will accommodate items such as non-

recyclable packaging, film plastics, diapers and pet waste. There will be three cart sizes available to single family homes. Residents will also receive a food scraps collection pail and an initial supply of plastic bag liners.

The planning has just begun, but City staff will be at Neighborhood Association meetings and the Farmer's Market with a sample of the new cart. City staff will also use newspapers and social media to inform residents of what changes are coming well before the program begins. "We know residents will have many questions about the program as well as concerns about getting food scraps into the right side of the cart, so we will do all we can to support a smooth transition for our residents," states Lisa Coelho, Residential Zero Waste Coordinator. The roll-out is scheduled for fall 2017. ☺

How do I Participate if I Have a Backyard Compost or Worm Bin?

Composting at home is fantastic and we encourage you to continue doing it. The new program will complement your home composting efforts because you will now be able to put things such as meat, cheese and bones into the food scraps collection cart. If you prefer to continue using your backyard compost bin, and do not generate any of these items, you may leave the food scraps side of the cart empty.



The yellow side of your cart will be used for food scraps.



Sunnyvale's Food Scraps Feed Animals

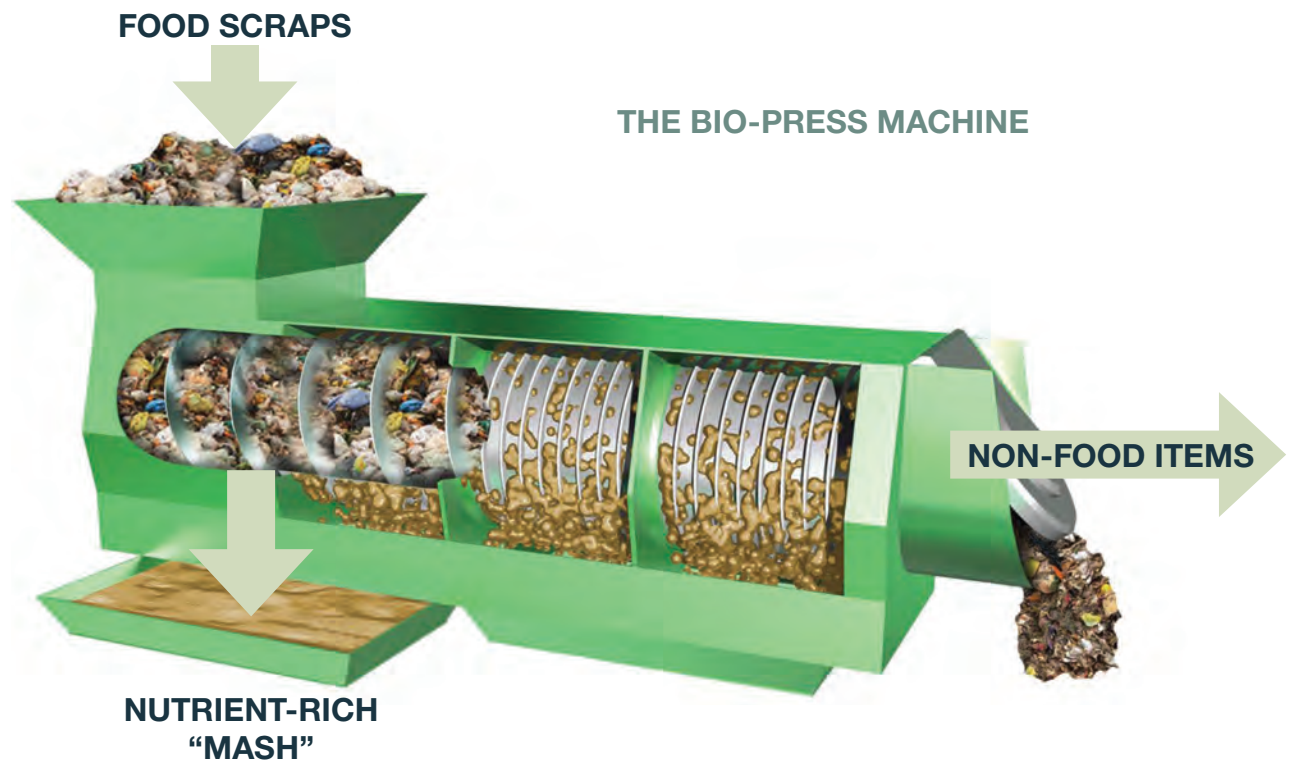
Most food scraps collection programs process the collected material into compost used for agricultural purposes, but Sunnyvale is doing something new and innovative by turning it into animal feed. How does it work?

Food scraps collected from businesses, schools (and soon from residents) are placed into clear plastic bags which are taken to the Sustainable Animal Feed Enterprises (SAFE) facility in Santa Clara.

The food scraps are processed through equipment that grinds and shreds the material into small pieces. Next, the food scraps are



Food scraps become a nutrient-rich ingredient for animal feed.



pressed through small holes, leaving behind the plastic bags and other contaminants. At this point, the food material has the consistency of a "mash," like creamy mashed potatoes. After becoming a mash, the food scraps are dried, sterilized and processed into a nutrient-rich animal feed ingredient similar in appearance to

ground beef jerky.

Each ton of mash yields 200 gallons of reclaimed water, 20 gallons of fats, oil and grease and 500 pounds of animal feed ingredient. The protein-rich ingredient meets USDA feed safety requirements for pigs, fish and chickens. For more information on this process visit ForktoFeed.com.

Holiday Tree Recycling

As part of the single-family yard trimmings collection service, residents may place their tree at the curb on service days or inside the yard trimmings cart if the lid can close. Residents living in four-plexes, apartments and townhomes should contact their property owner or manager to find out where to place their trees.

All trees must be properly prepared for collection. Here's how:

- Remove all lights, decorations and stands;
- Cut tree into four-foot lengths or shorter; and
- Place at the curb, inside yard trimmings carts, or at designated areas depending on where you live.






Recycle Holiday Light Strands at the SMaRT Station



Did you know you can recycle holiday light strands at the SMaRT Station? You can also recycle non-working electronics, small household appliances, cell phones, batteries and fluorescent bulbs and tubes — virtually anything with an electrical plug and at no charge!

Holiday Recycling Made Simple

Item	Preparation	Single-Family Curbside Recycling	Drop off at SMaRT Station Recycling Center 301 Carl Road
Christmas Trees 	Remove all decorations, lights and stands. Cut tree into four-foot or shorter lengths.	Place tree at curb or inside yard trimmings cart making sure lid can close.	Drop off for a \$16.50 fee.
Batteries 	Tape positive ends and place in zip-locked bag.	Place bag on top of recycling cart.	Drop off at no charge.
Holiday Lights 	Take holiday light strands to the SMaRT Station (wiring will be recycled).	Do not place light strands in garbage or recycling carts.	Drop off in designated bin at no charge.

For more recycling information, call (408) 730-7262, TDD (408) 730-7501, or visit Recycling.inSunnyvale.com

The SMaRT Station is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



Sustainable Habits for a New Year

Are you looking for an environmentally friendly New Year's resolution? The beginning of a new year is a great time to start new sustainable habits. Sunnyvale residents have been leaders in conservation throughout 2016, participating in energy saving activities from *IGreenSunnyvale* app challenges to a food scraps collection pilot program. This year, challenge yourself to engage in at least one new habit — reduce energy use, reuse the treasures hidden in your garage, prevent food waste or simply stop your junk mail.

Reduce Energy Use

TURN IT DOWN! This winter, wear warmer clothing and turn down the thermostat to 68 degrees. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60- to 70-degree range, you'll save up to 5 percent on heating costs.

SEAL IT UP! Insulation is extremely difficult to install perfectly. In an average home, the spaces that lack insulation add up to the size of a basketball. Imagine a basketball sized-hole leaking heat from your home. To stay warm, seal your home with weather stripping and caulking to make sure the heat you're paying for doesn't escape. Foam outlet gaskets, available at local hardware stores, are an easy way to insulate behind outlets and light switch covers.

KEEP IT TIMELY! It may be tempting to take long hot showers to warm up in the winter, but keep in mind water heating is the second largest use of your home's energy. In addition to taking shorter showers, installing low flow faucets, showerheads and toilets also reduces water and energy use.



CHECK IT OUT! The City offers a free DIY Home Energy Saving Kit, which residents may check out at any time. The DIY Home Energy Saving Kit contains useful energy saving tools and free items, such as outlet gaskets and light bulbs, that if installed could lower your energy bill by \$200 per year. For additional tips or to find out how to borrow a DIY kit, visit Green.inSunnyvale.com.

Aim for Zero Waste

OPT OUT OF JUNK MAIL! To stop unwanted junk mail visit dmachoice.org to remove your name from mailing lists. To opt out of insurance and credit card solicitations visit optoutprescreen.com.

EAT UP! A family of four spends \$1,500 per year on uneaten food. One way to prevent food waste is to learn the difference between various date labels on food. For the most part, you can trust your senses to know when food has gone bad. Milk, yogurt, juice, sauces—they can all be subject to the sniff or taste test. The products to be careful with are those they tell pregnant women to avoid—like deli meats and unpasteurized dairy products—and anything with mold. For more information on demystifying date labels visit savethefood.com and check out the tips section.

Types of Dates

- A **"Sell-By"** date tells the store how long to display the product for sale. This date does not dictate how long the product will last at home.
- A **"Best if Used By (or Before)"** date is recommended for best flavor, but does not mean the food is unsafe to consume.
- A **"Use-By"** date is the last date the product is at peak quality according to the manufacturer.

KEEP RE-GIVING! Host a holiday gift-swap to exchange unwanted gifts. Additionally, consider donating items such as toys, clothes and furniture to charitable groups like Goodwill Industries, The Salvation Army or American Cancer Society.

CHOOSE TO REUSE! Disposable packaging accounts for 67 percent of street litter in the San Francisco Bay area and 30 percent of household trash. Pledge to use reusable coffee cups, water bottles, napkins and just say, "No thank you," to straws. Here are a few more ways to reduce disposable items:

10 WAYS TO UNPACKAGE YOUR LIFE!



Tip 1
Bring your own shopping bag.



Tip 2
Reduce the use of plastic bags for produce & bulk items.



Tip 3
Bring your own food container and utensils.



Tip 4
Carry a reusable water bottle.



Tip 5
Pack a waste-free lunch.



Tip 6
Bring your own cup.



Tip 7
Slow down and dine in.



Tip 8
Say no to disposable straws.



Tip 9
Avoid heavily packaged foods.



Tip 10
Share these tips with friends!



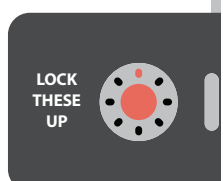
CLEAN WATER ACTION
CLEAN WATER FUND

To Shred or Not to Shred?

Do you need to shred documents and don't want to wait until the City's next shredding event? Are you wondering what to keep and what to shred? The Federal Trade Commission compiled these recommendations for document shredding.

When should I shred it?

Immediately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sales receipts ATM receipts Paid credit card statements Paid utility bills Credit offers Cancelled checks (that are not tax-related) Expired warranties
Up to 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay stubs Bank statements Paid, undisputed medical bills
After 7 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax-related receipts Tax-related cancelled checks W-2s Records for tax deductions taken
It depends...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auto titles Keep as long as you own the vehicle Home deeds Keep as long as you own the property Disputed medical bills Keep until the issue is resolved Home improvement receipts Keep until you sell your home and pay any capital gains taxes
Keep Forever	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth certificates Social Security cards Marriage or divorce decrees Citizenship papers Adoption papers Death certificates Tax returns



Next Document Shredding Event

March 18, 2017
SMaRT Station , 301 Carl Road



upcoming events

Find your 2017 Recycling Events Calendar inserted in this Quarterly Report.

HHW Drop-off events

January 21, April 15

To schedule an appointment at a Sunnyvale drop-off event, or at the San José permanent facility open weekends (except holidays), visit HHW.org or call (408) 299-7300.

Extra Dumping Weekends

Saturday, April 1, 2017 and Sunday, April 2, 2017

Saturday, April 8, 2017 and Sunday, April 9, 2017

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.

Document Shredding Event

March 18

8 a.m. to noon. Limit five bags or boxes, residents only.

SMaRT Station, 301 Carl Road

Compost Workshops

February 11, March 11, April 8

10 a.m. to noon

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

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

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

Prevent litter: No ifs, ands or Butts!

Cigarette butts remain the most littered item across the United States. A cigarette flicked on the ground is easily transported in stormwater runoff to local streams, rivers and waterways. In fact, in America, cigarette butts constitute 30 percent of the total litter (by count) on land, shorelines and in waterways.

A study conducted by Keep America Beautiful, found that 77 percent of individuals do not consider cigarette butts as litter. Many people believe the responsible way to extinguish a cigarette butt is to drop it on the ground and step on it. The common misconception is cigarette butts are too small to cause pollution; therefore disposing of them on the ground doesn't have a strong environmental impact.



In reality, remnants from cigarettes pollute water by leaching chemicals such as arsenic, nicotine and heavy metals. Researchers have found that chemicals from cigarette butts have the ability to do a great deal of damage to aquatic life. In fact, the chemicals from just one butt have the ability to kill half the fish living in a 1-liter container of water. In addition, birds and sea mammals often mistake the butts for food.

Cigarette butts belong in ashtrays and designated garbage receptacles. Portable ashtrays are a superior option to tossing cigarettes out of car windows. Proper cigarette disposal is one more way to keep Sunnyvale litter free. ♻️

Mercury Fever Thermometer Exchange & Medication Disposal Event

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sunnyvale Senior Center, Sequoia Room

Thermometer Exchange Info: Individuals who bring in their mercury thermometers will receive a free, solar digital fever thermometer in exchange (one per household). To avoid breakage and contamination, mercury fever thermometers **MUST** be contained in an unbreakable, closed container such as its original case, a plastic toothbrush holder, or a soda/water bottle with a screw-on cap. As a second measure of protection, the closed container must be sealed in a plastic zip-lock bag.

Only mercury-containing fever thermometers are accepted at this event — recycle other mercury-containing products at the SMaRT Station.

MedDrop Info: Unneeded prescriptions, ointments, creams and over-the-counter medications can be dropped off for proper disposal. Pill containers are not accepted. Place all pills in a sealed zip-lock bag and remove all personal information from ointments, liquids and creams. This event does not accept vitamins, personal hygiene items, medical equipment or needles (sharps). Recycle sharps at the SMaRT Station.

For more event information, call (408) 730-7717, TDD (408) 730-7501, or email green@sunnyvale.ca.gov.

Event sponsored by Sunnyvale's Environmental Services Department, Department of Public Safety, and Senior Center.

Who You Gonna Call...?



Keeping Our Creeks and the Bay Clean

In Sunnyvale, only rainwater is allowed to flow into storm drains. Our storm drains flow directly to local waterways and the Bay without treatment. Be on the lookout for the following potential sources of pollution to storm drains:

- Any wastes dumped directly into a storm drain;
- Muddy water, oil, water drained from pools or spas, soapy water, or any other chemicals flowing from a home, business or construction area into storm drains;

- Construction debris, including dirt, flowing toward a storm drain; and
- Residents or contractors hosing down "dirty" pavement, or washing construction or paint tools and allowing runoff to flow into the street, gutter or storm drain.

Reporting Spills or Dumping

To report non-emergency discharges or dumping of non-hazardous materials in storm drains, call (408) 730-7260, TDD (408) 730-7501 or email wpcp@sunnyvale.ca.gov from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours, call (408) 730-7181.

For emergency reports of hazardous spills or dumping into storm drains, call 911 or (408) 736-6244. By working together, we can help in protecting our creeks and the Bay. ♻️