



North Bay
Corporation

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Now see us on the Web at www.novatodisposal.com

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Novato Recycling News

Spring 2005
Volume 13, Number 1

Is It Really Trash?

Is there something in the trash that isn't really garbage?

Chances are, yes. Over half of what Californian's put in the trash can be recycled, reused or transformed into new consumer products.

Waste prevention and recycling programs are expanding to help local governments comply with a state law (AB 939) that required cities and counties to cut their garbage in half by the year 2000. Many cities, including Novato, already have composting programs and curbside collection programs. Novato's 2004 diversion rate was a whopping 69.58% but we need to continue our vigilance and take another look at our trash. Are any other items that can be recycled in there? If so, it's time to sort them out.

Yardwaste -- which makes up a huge part of California's waste stream -- can be recycled right at the curb in the green cart. Be sure to keep your "green clean". Keep all plastic bags, nursery pots, pet waste and other garbage out of your yardwaste cart. You can also recycle your own backyard through the simple practices of grasscycling, mulching and composting. In addition to saving landfill space, you'll save on buying fertilizer for your yard.

Paper and fiber products -- these materials make up the majority of the waste stream and nearly all paper fiber is recyclable. Magazines, newspaper office and household paper including paperback

books and junk mail can all be recycled. Keep all wet or food contaminated paper and plastic paper (won't tear) out of recycle containers.

Plastics -- this is a confusing area for many people. The bottom line on plastics is that if it's a household container and it's empty, put it in the recycle cart. Please, no plastic bags, styrofoam, toys, hoses or other miscellaneous plastic items.

Remember to take advantage of local thrift and second hand stores as well. They will welcome your quality used goods and you can support an area charity or nonprofit at the same time!

The best way to relieve the burden of solid waste management is never to create waste in the first place. And instead of thinking of your trash bin as an ordinary garbage can, consider it as your own little landfill. Take a good look at what you are throwing away and see where you can cut back on generating waste in the first place.

Let's keep in mind why we're reducing waste and recycling. We need to conserve our natural resources and landfill space. Novato residents and businesses are doing a lot, but we need to look at reducing our trash and recycling even more.

To learn what you can recycle, see the recycle guide on the back of this newsletter or call Novato Disposal at 897-4177. For other tips on recycling and how to reduce the amount of waste you send to the landfill, visit www.unicycler.com or www.marinrecycles.org

Cleaner Emissions

In response to new regulations issued by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), Novato Disposal Service has begun retrofitting collector trucks to reduce particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen, a prime contributor to smog. Both particulate matter and smog have been linked to asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

The retrofit devices replace the muffler in the exhaust system in a diesel vehicle and operate much like a catalytic converter in an automobile. The device being used is known as a Cleaire Longview and CARB has verified that the device reduces particulate matter greater than 85 percent and a 25 percent reduction in oxides of nitrogen. Emissions of volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide are also reduced by more than 90 percent each.

Additionally, Novato Disposal has begun using ultra-low sulphur diesel in all its vehicles which will further improve air quality of truck emissions.

"Novato Disposal is pleased to be working with the Novato Sanitary District to enhance air quality in the community", said Richard Johnson, Municipal Affairs Director for Novato Disposal.

The retrofitting of all trucks with the Cleaire Longview will be phased-in over the next few years.



Novato Community Curbside Cleanup April 4-8, 2005

During this week, Novato residential garbage customers may place cleanup materials from their homes at the curb for collection. You must follow all requirements as listed below or material may not be collected. All items must be at the curb the night before your regularly scheduled collection day.

Who May Participate:

- **Novato Disposal Residential Customers**
- **Multifamily Complexes:**
Complexes with central collection bins rather than separate can service for each household must request Cleanup Week collection service. Call Novato Disposal at 897-4177 no later than Wednesday, March 30.
- **Businesses and Institutions are not included.**

Special Handling:

Appliances

Call 897-4177 by Wednesday, March 30 for collection of major appliances. A \$20 fee for appliance handling and freon removal is charged for collection of any type of refrigeration unit whether or not it still contains freon. The fee will be added to your garbage bill.

Recyclables

Keep all recyclable items separate from cleanup debris. Recycle in the blue can or at a recycling center. Call 897-4177 for locations.

Usable Items

Please direct usable items to thrift and second hand stores.

Requirements:

All requirements must be adhered to during cleanups:

- A maximum of fourteen (14) bags, boxes or cans per household may be placed at the curb during cleanup week.
 - **Excess material will not be removed.**
- All material must be contained.
 - **Loose items will not be collected.**
- Items must be less than four (4) feet in length and must weigh less than 60 lbs. No sofas, tables, mattresses or other large items.
- No rock, dirt, bricks, concrete, tires, wood or asphalt.
 - **Oversize, heavy or prohibited items will not be removed.**
- No hazardous waste will be collected curbside including propane tanks, televisions or computer monitors. Call 892-7344 for hazardous waste disposal information.
 - **Hazardous waste will not be collected.**

Novato Recycling News

From Customer Service

Guidelines and Reminders

- Leave a full three feet between garbage, recycling and yard waste carts to prevent tipping. Keep carts away from low branches and all overhead obstructions.
- Park your car in your driveway the night before your collection day if possible. Please do not block access to carts.
- Place garbage loosely in your cart. Carts that are overstuffed or have material jammed into them may not empty completely.
- Do not place TV's or computer monitors in the garbage. Do not place syringes in trash. These are considered hazardous waste. Call 892-7344 for disposal information.

Extra Charge for Extra Trash

If you have an overloaded garbage cart or extra bags of garbage piled on top of, or alongside your cart, you will receive an automatic charge of \$4.09 for each extra bag or box of garbage. Carts are considered overloaded if the lid will not close.

If you have extra garbage, call our office at 897-4177 by 4 pm the day preceding your regular collection day to order extra service and avoid confusion when you receive your bill. Do not overstuff your carts as they may not empty completely.

2005 Collection Schedule

Novato Disposal collects solid waste, recycling and yard waste every day except Christmas and New Years Day. Because these holidays both fall on Sunday this year, there will be no holiday service schedule changes this year.

Plastic Bags


Do not place styrofoam or plastic bags inside your recycling or greenwaste cart.

- Clean, dry and empty plastic bags may be returned to many grocery stores for recycling collection.

NO PLASTIC BAGS



Plastic bags contaminate yard debris and recycling.

 Recycle your bags at grocery stores.

Tips for Successful Recycling

Recycling is more successful when it is convenient. A few simple steps can make a big difference in how much gets recycled at your house. Try the following ideas to encourage additional recycling in your home.

Place a like-size container next to your kitchen trash. In most homes more than 50% of what needs to be disposed of in kitchens is recyclable. Recycle all of your paper, paperboard, milk cartons, glass, metal and plastic containers. No sorting is necessary. Empty containers only.

Place a collection container near your phone for newspapers, magazines, junkmail and other household paper. Having a convenient and central location for collection will make it easier for your family to recycle.

Share your recycling tips with other readers about how you have made recycling a habit in your home. Please send your ideas to Recycling News c/o Novato Disposal PO Box 1916, Santa Rosa CA 95402.

Can You Hear Me Now?

Californians retire over 25,000 cell phones per day. According to a recent poll, over 70% of cell phone users are unaware that they can be recycled. That means many phones are thrown straight in the trash. Millions of wireless phones are ending up in California landfills each year and because these phones, like other electronic waste, contain heavy metals and other hazardous materials, soil and groundwater are susceptible to

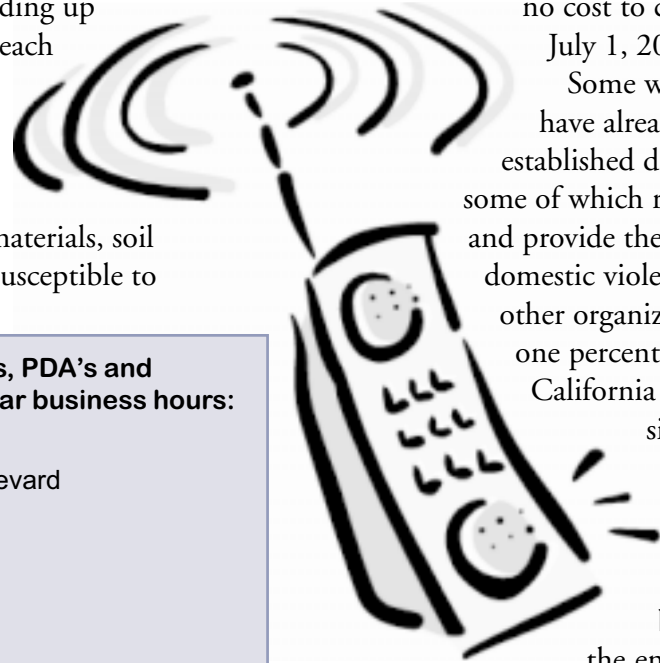
contamination if they are not handled correctly.

Assembly Bill 2901 hopes to address this problem. Signed into law in September, this bill requires all cell phone retailers and service providers to accept cell phones for recycling at no cost to consumers beginning July 1, 2006.

Some wireless companies have already voluntarily established drop off programs, some of which refurbish the phones and provide them free to victims of domestic violence or donate them to other organizations. But less than one percent of the phones sold in California have been recycled since 1999, according to Inform, Inc., an independent organization that studies the impact of business practices on the environment.

Companies that fail to comply with the new law may find that State Agencies canceling contracts with noncompliant carriers and the State Attorney General can sue to recover money made due to noncompliance.

What options do consumers have to recycle used phones before the law takes effect? The sidebar lists several locations in Novato where you can drop off old phones for recycling.



Drop off cell phones, PDA's and pagers during regular business hours:

Novato Wireless
2009 Novato Boulevard
(415) 899-1077

Cellular World
132 Vintage Way
(415) 898-5555

Radio Shack
930 Diablo Ave.
(415) 897-4564

Staples
55 Rowland Way
(415) 897-0544

Or you may donate cell phones to the Wireless Foundation, "Call to Protect" program which repairs cell phones and distributes them to victims of domestic violence. www.wirelessfoundation.org

Novato Recycling & Buyback Centers

Novato Recycling and Buyback Center

**7576 Redwood Blvd. (next to Shamrock Materials).
Open Tuesday - Sunday, 10 - 4**

The Redwood Boulevard Recycling Center pays for California Redemption Value (CRV) containers AND accepts non CRV containers for dropoff.

We also accept newspaper, single layer cardboard (paperboard), mixed household/office paper (colored & white paper), magazines, catalogs, and corrugated cardboard.

Recycling Redemption Depot

The Square Shopping Center

(Novato Blvd. & Wilson Ave., located behind Market in alley.)

Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Recycling Depot buys back CRV plastic, glass bottles, and aluminum and metal cans only. The Recycling Depot accepts non-CRV containers for dropoff only. The Depot **does not** accept other recyclable materials. Please go to Redwood Recycling Center with non-CRV drop-off recyclables such as cardboard and mixed paper.

- ✓ Payment is made only for CRV materials. Payment rate is established by the State.
- ✓ Payment is made by the pound except when there are a total of 50 or less containers in which case the customer may request the containers be counted.
- ✓ All CRV material must be segregated from non-CRV material for payment.
- ✓ Each product type must be segregated by material (i.e. glass, aluminum, etc.)
- ✓ Materials with California Redemption Value can be identified by the "CA Cash Refund" or "CA Redemption Value" wording on beverage containers. Containers without this wording are accepted for dropoff but receive no payment.
- ✓ Bring other recyclable materials such as cardboard, mixed paper and non-CRV containers to the Redwood Boulevard Recycling Center only.
- ✓ The buy-back and recycle depots are for household recycling only. For commercial recycling collection, please call 897-4177.
- ✓ Material that is contaminated with dirt, moisture or debris may be paid at a discounted rate. The customer may choose to take contaminated material back instead of receiving a reduced payment for contaminated material.

Novato Recycling News

Novato Clean and Green Day!

Novato's 10th Annual Clean and Green Day will take place on Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event is organized for the purpose of cleaning up and beautifying Novato's public areas. People from all over Novato will come together to remove litter and trash from public areas along city streets, bike paths, median strips and creek banks.

Please join other families, neighborhoods, volunteer groups, businesses and individuals who will participate in this community service

Join Your Neighbors to Help Spruce Up Our Town!

event. Trash bags and vests will be provided. Wear sturdy shoes and bring your gloves.

Meet in the parking lot across from Redwood Bagel at 9a.m. If you would like more information or if you would like to volunteer, please call Susan Stompe at 897-1610, Ed Schulz at 897-8969, Barbara Kronenberg at 899-8920 or the City Maintenance Department at 897-4347.

Sponsored by the City of Novato Streetscape Maintenance Coalition.



Ask the Unicycler!

- Q** How do I dispose of old medications and used household batteries?
- A** Medications must be taken to the HHW facility. Call 892-7344 for an appointment. Household batteries may be taken to any Novato Fire Station during business hours. See the Fall 2004 Novato Recycle News for articles on these topics. You may also find archived newsletters online at novatodisposal.com
- Q** I need to have an old couch and a large metal desk removed. They are too big for the cleanup. What can I do?
- A** Novato Disposal can make a special trip to your house for a fee to remove them. You may also haul them to Redwood Landfill (892-2851) directly and pay a disposal fee.
- Q** How can I get rid of old major appliances?
- A** Novato Disposal will pick up appliances during cleanup week. There is a charge of \$20 for all freon appliances whether or not they still have freon. Residents may also call for a special for-fee pickup at other times of the year or may direct-haul to Redwood Landfill.
- Q** Should I bundle and tie my paper before placing in blue cart for recycling?
- A** No. Paper should be placed loose in the blue cart.
- Q** Should my garbage and recycle carts be on the sidewalk or in the street?
- A** Our drivers try to leave the container where it is most convenient for them to collect. When possible, please place carts where the driver leaves them. Generally that will be in the street with the wheels against the curb. Remember to park off the street on garbage day if you can.

Do you have a question for the Unicycler? Submit it to Novato Recycling News C/O Novato Disposal PO Box 1916 Santa Rosa CA 95402-1916

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal & Recycling

The Novato Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility is open to serve Novato residents by **appointment only on the first and third Sundays and Mondays of each month from 8:30am – 1:30pm. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 892-7344, select the date you want and leave your name address and phone number.**



Household Hazardous Waste FAQ's

Q: I've been cleaning out my parent's house and noticed quite a few old medications. We used to just flush these down the toilet, but I've been told that this is no longer a responsible disposal option. What should I do with old or unwanted medications?

A: Bring your expired or unwanted medications to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility on their regular open days. This includes both over-the counter and prescription medications.

Q: Why do we have to make an appointment at the household hazardous waste facility?

A: As a condition of our permit with the City we are required to have an appointment process. This is in part to alleviate traffic concerns. It's easy to make an appointment – just call the hotline anytime at 892-7344!

Q: I have lots of empty paint cans. Should I bring these to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility?

A: Empty cans which have no free flowing material and are completely dry can be placed in your trash container. Completely empty aerosol cans can be placed in your recycling.

Q: I know that you take computer monitors and old televisions at the household hazardous waste facility, but what do I do with my computer CPU's, printers and all the other peripherals?

A: Households can dispose of computer CPU's and printers in the trash only until February, 2006. However, we recommend that you look for opportunities to recycle these materials. On an annual basis, Novato sponsors a week-long free E-Waste drop-off at the Recycling Center. **Watch for separate mailer regarding this fall event in 2005.**

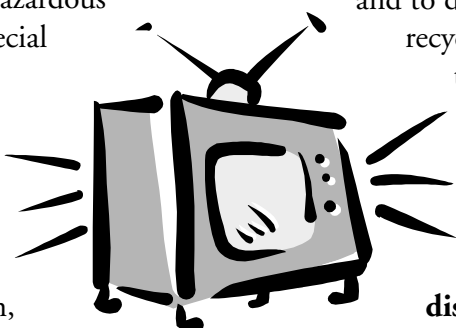
E-Waste Recycling in California

Electronic waste, or E-Waste, is considered to be one of the fastest growing waste streams in the world due to the growing sales and built-in obsolescence of these products. Many common electronic products such as computers monitors, televisions, VCR's, stereos, etc. contain a variety of valuable materials, including metals, that can be recovered for recycling. Many of these same metals cause these products to be considered hazardous waste and as such they require special handling, recycling and disposal.

On September 24, 2003, California established landmark legislation for the funding of collection and recycling of certain electronic wastes. Implementation of this legislation,

known as the Electronic Waste Recycling Act, provides for a small fee of \$6.00 to \$10.00 to be collected by the retailer at the point of purchase of these covered electronics, primarily computer monitors and televisions. Collected fees are deposited in the State of California Electronic Waste Recovery and Recycling Account to be used exclusively to provide for payments to authorized collectors and recyclers and to develop additional recycling opportunities for these hazardous wastes.

Remember, computer monitors and televisions are considered hazardous waste and cannot be disposed of in the trash.



In Novato there are several opportunities to recycle your electronic wastes:

- The Novato Household Hazardous Waste facility accepts computer monitors and televisions. Call 892-7344 for an appointment.
- Novato sponsors a week long E-Waste recycling event at the end of September. Watch for a separate announcement in your mail."
- The Marin Computer Resource Center accepts computers and electronic components. Visit their website at <http://www.mrcr.org/> or call 883-1428.
- There are several programs sponsored by the electronic industry. IBM, Dell and Hewlett Packard offer take-back recycling programs. Visit the U.S. EPA's site at <http://www.epa.gov/epr/products/eindust.html>
- Visit <http://www.ecycle.org> for more information on where to recycle your E-Waste.

Single Stream Recycling Guide

No garbage or plastic bags in your recycle containers please!

Your container will not be collected and you may be billed for extra garbage

- Empty and rinse containers
- Remove plastic and metal lids
- No plastic bags
- No styrofoam
- No hazardous or liquid wastes

Place all Recycling Together in Blue Cart

Businesses may call Novato Disposal at 897-4177 to set up a free commercial recycling program.

Mixed Paper and Cardboard

Flatten or cut boxes to fit loosely inside cart. Put shredded paper in paper bags inside cart.

YES

- ✓ White & Colored Paper
- ✓ Office Paper & Envelopes
- ✓ Newspaper
- ✓ Junk Mail & Envelopes
- ✓ Magazines & Catalogs
- ✓ Paperback & Phone Books
- ✓ Small Pieces of Cardboard
- ✓ Single Layer Cardboard (cereal, shoe boxes, etc.)
- ✓ Corrugated Cardboard

NO

- ✗ Plastic Bags
- ✗ Food Contaminated Paper
- ✗ Pizza Boxes
- ✗ Waxed Cardboard or Paper
- ✗ Photographs or Blueprint Paper
- ✗ Napkins, Towels, Tissues



Milk Cartons and Juice/Rice/Soy boxes

Empty before recycling. Remove plastic straws & tops

YES

- ✓ Milk Cartons
- ✓ Drink Boxes
- ✓ Juice Concentrate Cartons
- ✓ Frozen Food Packaging

NO

- ✗ Plastic Lined Cartons
- ✗ Straws or Pop Tops
- ✗ Plastic Bags



Glass Bottles & Jars

Remove caps and empty before recycling.

YES

- ✓ Clear & Colored Glass
- ✓ Food & Beverage Jars
- ✓ Leave Labels On

NO

- ✗ Jar Lids or Caps
- ✗ Window or Mirror Glass
- ✗ Ceramic, Dishes or Stemware



Plastic Containers

Wash & squash, remove caps. Empty before recycling.

YES

- ✓ All Plastic Containers #1-#7
- ✓ Milk & Water Jugs
- ✓ Soda & Juice Bottles
- ✓ Shampoo & Detergent
- ✓ Yogurt & Deli Tubs
- ✓ Pasta and Deli Trays

NO

- ✗ Plastic Caps
- ✗ Plastic Bags
- ✗ Styrofoam



Metal Cans

Wash & squash, leave labels on. Empty before recycling.

YES

- ✓ Aluminum Cans
- ✓ Steel & Tin Cans
- ✓ Bimetal Cans
- ✓ Empty Paint/ Aerosol Cans

NO

- ✗ Plastic Caps
- ✗ Plastic Bags
- ✗ Styrofoam



Residential recycling is picked up on your regular garbage day. Multifamily complexes and commercial accounts may have a different collection schedule.

Novato Disposal Yard Waste Guidelines

Mowing your lawn or raking the leaves? Trimming the hedges or pulling some weeds? Pruning your trees or having it out with berry bushes?

Place all grass cuttings, leaves and weeds, tree & shrubbery trimmings, berry bushes and other yard waste inside your green rolling cart only. Branches under 3" in diameter and less than 4 feet long are accepted.

☒ Place your yard waste cart at the curb allowing at least three feet of space between containers.

☒ All greenwaste must be in the container. Loose material will not be collected.

☒ Do not put yard waste in plastic bags. Keep your green clean!



Something New Under the Sun

Tennis Shoe Recycling & Reuse

Your athletic shoes have served you well, but all good things must come to an end. Now what? What's to become of those tired and worn-out old friends?

Relegated forever to the back of the closet?

Donated to a secondhand store or garage sale?

Deposited in the – ough – landfill?

Over a decade

ago, Nike began to look for a better answer than that typically sad fate for worn-out and defective pairs of athletic shoes. And they came up with a pretty nifty one: Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe program.

Reuse-A-Shoe is a key component of Nike's long-term commitment to waste elimination by helping to close the loop on the life cycle of literally millions of pairs of old, worn-out or otherwise unusable athletic shoe material.

Athletic shoes are gathered, separated, and ground up into Nike Grind material for use in athletic surfaces and fields, called NikeGO Places, to help kids get moving. Some 16 million pairs have been recycled to date.

There are presently no dropoff locations for athletic shoes in Novato, however, any athletic shoe may be mailed to the address below. No shoes will be accepted with postage due. For information or for dropoff locations in the San Francisco area visit: www.nikereuseashoe.com

Nike Recycling Center
c/o Reuse-A-Shoe
26755 SW 95th Ave.
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Used shoes of all types (as well as used clothes and clean rags) may be taken to the Novato Recycling Center and placed into the green Used Clothing Collection box in the office. Donation at this location benefit Campus California Teachers Group, a Bay Area nonprofit that was featured last issue. These clothing and shoe donations help fund a variety of programs that benefit environmental and humanitarian activities worldwide.

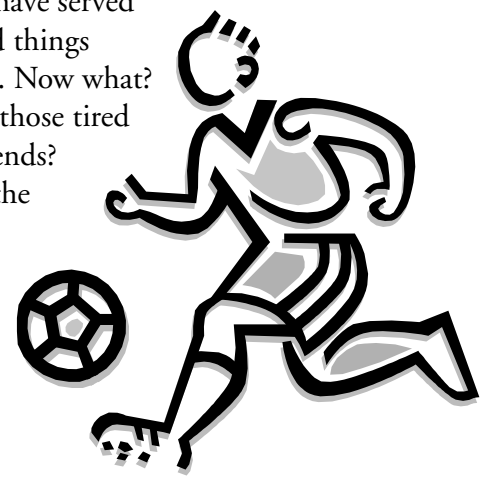
Visit MarinMax.org:

Marin County's Virtual Materials Exchange

MarinMax is a free materials exchange website, which allows you to swap, barter or exchange items that you no longer need or to find an item you need that someone else is letting go. A materials exchange is a great way to promote re-use of products and save our valuable resources. Appliances, firewood, construction materials, clothing, furniture, scrap metal, electronics, and a wide variety of other materials can all be found on MarinMax.

MarinMax is designed for use by businesses, non-profits and individuals within Marin County. The goal of this site is to divert waste from landfills, build partnerships within the community, and provide an environmentally sustainable marketplace.

Visit MarinMax www.marinmax.org today, create your own account and start saving valuable resources.



Prohibited Items:

- garbage
- rock
- lumber
- plastic bags
- pet waste
- processed or treated wood products
- sod or dirt
- gravel or concrete
- playground bark
- nursery pots or plastic
- food waste

Keep Your Green Clean! You may be assessed fee for contaminated yard waste!