

P³ POLLUTION PREVENTION POST

YOUR NEWS AND INFORMATION SOURCE ABOUT: RECYCLING, POLLUTION PREVENTION, LESS TOXIC PRODUCTS



Coming Soon: Community Action Grants

San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program offers Community Action Grants for volunteer groups, teachers, environmental organizations and other local, not-for-profit associations interested in developing and/or implementing projects that improve the quality of local creeks, the Bay or the Pacific Ocean within San Mateo County. Up to \$3,000 is awarded to groups proposing projects to restore, protect,

enhance, or prevent pollution of local waterways - or that benefit the ecology of the San Mateo

County watershed. Applications are available in October 2011, with a November 2011 deadline. Get more information at

www.flowstobay.org/grant

or call 650-372-6245.



Know Your Curbside and Door-to-Door Services

You want to do the right thing with your household hazardous waste – but what are your options? You can make an appointment and drive your stored-up “too toxic to trash” items to the County HHW facility. Or if you are dropping off a few fluorescent light bulbs, a baggie of used-up batteries, or a gallon of used motor oil you can visit one of our local business partners for proper recycling.



But what if the disposal service came right to your home? Depending on where you live within the County, that dream may already have come true. In many areas, household batteries can be placed on top of the recycling bin, and used motor oil and filters next to the bin. And in a few cities, households can call up a company providing door-to-door pick-up of any type of household hazardous waste and schedule a day to hand it all over at the doorstep.

(continued on page 2)

Water Pollution Education Gearing Up for Fall 2011

The San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program’s school outreach program continues this Fall with environmental educators going into schools to teach children about ways to prevent water pollution. At the elementary level, the Banana Slug String Band’s program “We All Live Downstream” will present concepts such as the water cycle, water quality, and urban

(continued on page 4)

CONTENTS

Styrofoam Bans	2
Coastal Cleanup Day	3
Green Cleaning	4
Oil Change Tips	4

Know Your Curbside and Door-to-Door Services (con't)

To find out what services are provided by your City's contracted hauling service, you can call the hauler directly, or visit their website. Or you can visit www.Recycleworks.org and use the interactive "Find Your Garbage Company" map to find the details of each company's service. There are seven companies, some of which operate in multiple cities.

Company	Phone	Website
Recology San Mateo County*	595-3900	www.recologysanmateocounty.com
Recology of the Coast	355-9000	www.recologyofthecoast.com
Allied Waste of Half Moon Bay	756-1130	www.alliedwastehalfmoonbay.com
Allied Waste of Daly City	756-1130	www.alliedwastedalycity.com
GreenWaste Recovery	568-9900	www.greenwaste.com
Recology San Bruno	583-8536	www.recologysanbruno.com
South SF Scavenger Company	589-4020	www.ssfscavenger.com

* Residents in Belmont, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, San Carlos, City of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District now have a Door to Door Household Hazardous Waste program offered at no additional charge. To make an appointment, call At Your Door at 1-800-449-7587.

Bye-Bye, Styrofoam Takeout Food Containers

Starting July 1, 2011, salads, sandwiches, milkshakes, burritos, hamburgers, and other food items that were commonly packaged in foam takeout containers must be packaged in other materials. Food vendors in unincorporated San Mateo County are banned from using products made with expanded polystyrene, also referred to as styrofoam. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors expanded the ban (currently in effect for County facilities) to also include businesses located in unincorporated areas. Instead of using styrofoam, vendors may use containers made from recyclable, biodegradable or compostable materials like paper, cardboard, corn starch, potato starch or sugarcane.



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Five cities have also banned food vendors from using polystyrene products: Millbrae, San Bruno, Pacifica, South San Francisco and, starting 2012, Burlingame. Slowly, styrofoam takeout containers are becoming extinct, replaced with environmentally friendly alternatives that are either recyclable or compostable.

Thank you, restaurants, for doing your part to keep San Mateo County green and clean.

HIT THE STREETS, COMB THE BEACH

Be the Solution to Litter Pollution

Trash, garbage, illegal dumping, litter, debris, waste, junk – pick a name- if not properly disposed of, it ends up in our local creeks, waterways, the Bay, and eventually the ocean where it disrupts our delicate ecosystem. For the past 26 years, thousands of volunteers across California have joined forces during Coastal Cleanup Day to remove the debris that has



accumulated on California's beaches and inland shorelines. Join us this year for the 27th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, which will take place on Saturday, September 17th from 9 am to Noon. Together, volunteers spend the morning collecting plastic bags, cigarette butts, and other debris that makes its way to the bay or ocean via storm drains and waterways.

Without the help of dedicated volunteers, most of the debris collected would end up polluting our waterways, damaging marine ecosystems, and endangering marine life.

How Can YOU Help?

On Saturday, September 17th, 2011 join your fellow friends, family, students, service groups, and neighbors to take care of your own environment, show community support, learn about the impacts of litter, and have fun!

The San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program is helping to coordinate the California Coastal Cleanup in San Mateo County. All you have to do is pick a local cleanup location, show up, and cleanup! All materials will be handed out when you arrive at 9am and the cleanup goes until noon. For a list of Cleanup sites and more information visit www.flowstobay.org/ccd or contact Ana Clayton at 650.372.6214.



BRING YOUR OWN

Minimize our footprint and bring your own reusable gloves, a water bottle and a bucket or an old bag.



THE POLLUTION SOLUTION TEAM

This year, we challenge you to not only participate in Coastal Cleanup Day but to continue both educating others and cleaning up your local neighborhood all year round!

Join the *Pollution Solution Team*.

- Take a pledge to cleanup your neighborhood on a year round basis.
- Report your results.
- Actively make a difference in your community.
- Join the team on Coastal Cleanup Day.



STEP UP TO CLEANUP

WORK OUT WHILE YOU HELP OUT

School Presentations (con't)

runoff. At the high school level, Rock Steady Science will present "Water Pollution Prevention and Your Car," a fifty-minute multimedia, interactive classroom presentation targeted to grades 10–12. The program focuses on automotive care and its relationship to storm water pollution prevention.

To learn more about the school presentations or to schedule a presentation at your school visit www.flowstobay.org/teachers. For more information about ways to educate your children about water pollution, go to www.flowstobay.org and select the Community tab. On the left side, click on "Kids" and you will find games, a glossary, and activity books that can be downloaded.

Recipe for a Cleaner Planet



Cleaning products are everywhere in our homes: dish soap, bathroom cleaners, kitchen cleansers, all purpose cleaners, detergents, oven cleaners, etc. Most of these cleaning products are petroleum-based and can present several health and environmental concerns. They may contain chemicals associated with eye, skin, or respiratory irritation, or other human or animal health issues. Some of them can become toxic if mixed together, such as ammonia and bleach. Unused quantities of these chemicals cannot be thrown into the trash because the toxins get into the landfill and find their way into soil and groundwater. Others evaporate and contribute to air pollution.

What can you do? The good news is there are alternatives to chemical cleaning products that are safe and affordable. There are many new products on the market that are natural and more environmentally sustainable. These can be found at hardware stores, supermarkets, pharmacies, and large box stores that sell cleaning products. Another option is to make your own! Everyday non-toxic household products, such as lemon juice, baking soda, white vinegar, and soapy water can be mixed in different quantities to clean ovens, countertops, floors, carpets, windows, toilet bowls and tile. Other mixtures can be used to polish wood, deodorize carpet and fabric, or open drains. Visit www.flowstobay.org/toxic for a Less Toxic Household Recipe List, or send your name and address to pollutionprevention@co.sanmateo.ca.us and we will send you some cleanser recipe cards to keep handy!

Let the Manual Guide Your Next Oil Change

Are you stuck in the habit of getting an oil change every 3,000 miles? Did you know many newer models have

oil change intervals that range from 5,000 to 10,000 miles? Consult your service manual or Edmunds.com maintenance section to learn your car's actual oil change schedule. You might be surprised with what you find in your owners manual – go look today!

What changed the old rule?

Technology. In the past few years, engine advances and oil-chemistry breakthroughs have made newer cars capable of going at least 5,000 miles, or more, between changes. This means that up to half as much oil and oil filters have to be used. This equates to

spending less money and wasting less oil.

Therefore, before you go in for your oil change, read your owner's manual and see what it says. And if you change your own oil and filter, know how and where to properly recycle used motor oil, filters, and other vehicle fluids. The next time you change your oil, take the last step and bring your oil and filter to a used oil collection center to recycle them free of charge. To find a collection center call 1-800- CLEANUP or go to www.flowstobay.org/usedoil.

