



BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM

County of San Bernardino—Department of Public Works
Solid Waste Management Division

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The Program

The County of San Bernardino Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) developed the Beverage Container Recycling Program on April 2, 2002. Funding for the program is received from the California Department of Conservation Division (DOC) from unclaimed refunds from discarded California Refund Value (CRV) beverage containers that are not recycled and end up in the landfill.

Implementing the program in 2002 with only 2 schools; SWMD successfully established 32 beverage container recycling programs; which includes 16 schools (10 elementary / 1 middle / 5 high) throughout the unincorporated

areas of San Bernardino County. To be part of this program an Agreement is signed by the participant and SWMD. SWMD purchases recycling containers, liners, gloves, and if needed signs and flyers and are responsible for the ongoing management of their program.

The Beverage Container Recycling Program is one of several County initiatives to reduce waste and helps comply with mandated state waste reduction goals. Focusing on CRV beverage container recycling and litter cleanup activities; the program presents an opportunity to educate our citizens about the importance and benefits of recycling through special events, press release and ad-

vertisements and products made from recycled content materials.

According to reports from the DOC, Californians recycled a record 7.6 billion beverage containers between January and June 2008, raising the CRV recycling rate to 76 percent. The jump is an increase of nearly 600 million beverage container over the same period in 2007, when the recycling rate was 71 percent.

Recycling 7.6 billion beverage containers is equivalent to removing nearly 300,000 cars from the road for a year!

What's your carbon footprint?
www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.

“When nature has work to be done, she creates a genius to do it.”
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Inside this issue:

2008 Progress Report	2
Wrightwood Elementary School, Wrightwood	2 & 3
Zero Waste Starts With You!	3
Reducing Waste This Holiday Season and In the Future	4

Additional Resources

www.conservation.ca.gov

www.earth911.com

www.ciwmb.gov

www.greengiftguide.com

www.bottlesandcans.com

www.keepcaliforniabeautiful.com

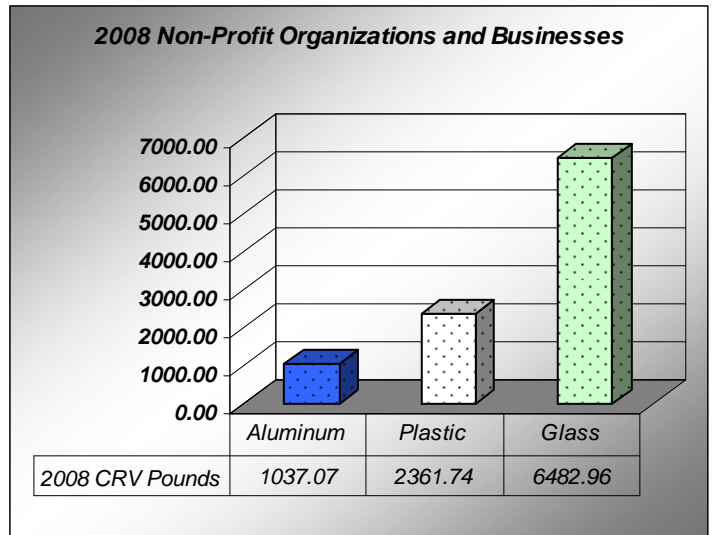
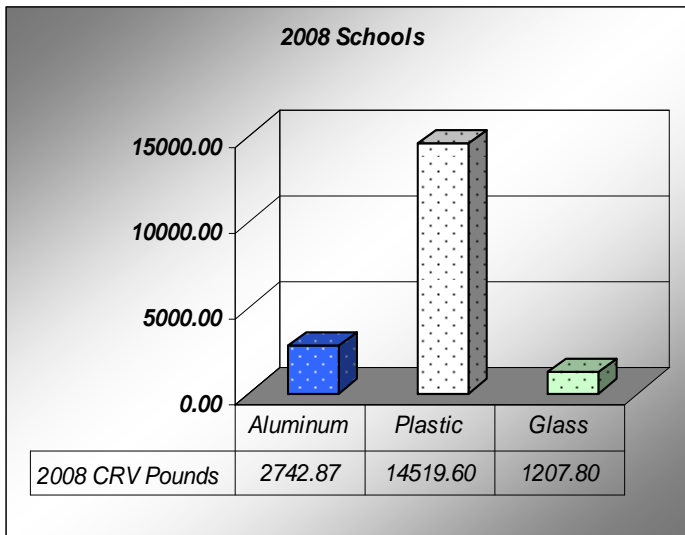




2008 Progress Report

We measure our progress by receiving pre-paid stamped post cards from participants supplied by SWMD on a monthly basis and recorded by pounds. Plastic bottles has the most diversion at schools because of the new laws banning sale of soft drinks and only allow water, milk and some limited fruit and sports drinks.

- Schools: 18,470.27 pounds of CRV plastic and glass bottles and aluminum cans.
- Non-profit organizations and businesses: 9,881.77 pounds of CRV plastic and glass bottles and aluminum cans.



Wrightwood Elementary School Wrightwood

Wrightwood Elementary School in Wrightwood joined the program in January 2008.

The



school was motivated by what was happening at the local high school (Serrano High School) with great success and also wanted to implement a

beverage container recycling program. The students wanted to raise money for their events and become aware of recycling and how it effects the environment.

"The parents formed a

committee and volunteer once a week. We have two 30-gallon recycled plastic lumber containers where students and staff can recycle

their cans and bottles. Plus, we have 'Two on Tuesdays' where students, parents and the community bring in their cans and bottles."

- Teree LaVogue, Teacher/Parent

"In six months we raised \$700.00" -Teree LaVogue

(Continued on page 3)



Wrightwood Elementary School Wrightwood

(Continued from page 2)

The cans and bottles are taken to their local recycling site and

"I have a Zero-Waste policy in my room!"

—Arlene Corte

turned in for cash, which is put back into the PTG for the 5th grade class funding events. "This year we have raised about \$100.00 per month. Last year from mid January until mid June we raised \$700.00. All money goes to PTG for the 5th grade class events, field trips and promotions." -Teree LaVogue, Teacher/Parent

Not only do they collect cans and bottles but paper and cardboard as well. The franchise hauler CR&R Waste and Recycling Services donated seven 65-gallon carts for their recycling program which is filled up and picked up once a week. "We collect the usable one-sided paper and use in the copy room for the duplex machine. I encourage the teachers to do the same for their printers and use it for copies of worksheets. My class is very particular about recycling. I have a Zero-Waste Policy in my room!" -Arlene Corte, Teacher



Arlene Corte's 5th Graders

Zero Waste Starts With You!

Do you know recycling your holiday tree does make a difference and can reduce the amount of waste going to the landfills in San Bernardino County...

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, a real Christmas tree is the only choice that is completely recyclable.

Artificial trees typically end up in landfills, where they will remain for centuries after disposal.

In a national survey, 69% of consumers who used a real tree said they recycled theirs in a community program.

Here are some secondary uses for your tree after the Holiday



Season. Trees can be used as; 1) mulch for water conservation and weed control; 2) erosion or dust control on hiking trails and bridle paths; 3) additives in composting operations; 4) alternative fuel in special power generation facilities; or 5) a means of restoring wildlife habitat, by piling the trees around watering holes to provide shelter for birds, or by sinking them into lakes as a haven for small fish.

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Solid Waste Management Division offers many services to assist residents, community groups and businesses in reducing waste.

For more waste reduction information, workshop schedules, disposal sites and hours call 1.800.722.8004 or visit us on the web!

Reducing Waste This Holiday Season And In The Future

Over the holidays we consume lots of resources and generate extra waste for our trash collectors and our landfills. A recent report by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) noted that the amount of household garbage in the United States generally increases by 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, from 4 million tons to 5 million tons. However, there are many ways to reduce holiday waste without reducing the holiday spirit. So, before you wrap any gifts, send that special card or host a party, remember your decisions may have an impact on the environment. So...

REDUCE: To lessen, make small: Instead of using disposable paper products such as towels, napkins, plates and cups, use cloth towels and napkins, washable plates, glasses, and silverware. Purchase products in bulk quantities, like 2-liter bottles of soft drinks instead of single cans, this reduces packaging.

REUSE: To use again: Your sports bottle is a wise choice at fast food retailers. When you shop, make it a habit to take along and use reusable tote bags.

RECYCLE: To take something used and make new again: Give your Holiday cards to local pre-schools for children's crafts or cut them for next year's gift tags.

And remember to recycle those beverage containers!

Be Safe and Happy New Year!