

# Beverage Container Recycling Program



“The American people have a right to air that they and their children can breathe without fear.”

— Lyndon Baines Johnson

## Tips To Live Sustainably

1. **RECYCLE:** Recycling California Refund Value (CRV) beverage containers is one of the easiest things people can do to live sustainably. Recycling conserves resources and saves energy. Think about this: A California family of four, on average, will consume more than 2,000 CRV beverage containers in one year, worth more than \$100 in CRV.
2. **REUSE AND BUY RECYCLED:** Californians can help reduce their carbon footprint by reusing a water bottle to eliminate waste. If residents purchased a water filtration system for their tap water instead of buying bottled water, they would reduce substantial energy and environmental costs. “Close the loop” on recycling by purchasing goods made from or packaged in recycled material. Today, there are thousands of manufacturers and retailers offering affordable products made from recycled bottles and cans and other materials. Manufacturing aluminum, plastic and glass containers from raw materials requires enormous amounts of energy, resulting in massive carbon emissions. But making containers from recycled materials uses far less energy – 95% less in the case of aluminum cans.
3. **LEAVE YOUR CAR BEHIND:** Leave your car at home at least one day a week. If you can cut your vehicle miles traveled by just 5% through combining trips, walking, biking, or taking public transportation, you can save up to \$100 per year on gasoline costs. You can also reduce one pound of greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating just one mile of driving. In the first six months of 2008, Californians recycled 7.6 billion bottles and cans. In terms of energy savings, that's like taking 263,000 cars off the road for a year!
4. **CONSERVE ENERGY AT HOME & WORK:** Turn off lights when you leave a room and keep the thermostat at 70 degrees or lower in cold weather months, 78 degrees or higher in the warm weather months. You can save about 3% on heating costs for every degree you reduce your thermostat setting. Turn down your water heater or purchase an Energy Star water heater. Water heating accounts for about 13% of home energy costs. Contact your local energy company to receive an energy audit; most companies provide this service free of charge. Enable your monitor's energy saving features when in use. Turn off your computer equipment at night and at other times when it doesn't have to be left on. Be conservative about what documents you decide to print and change your printer settings to 2-sided printing to reduce the amount of paper.
5. **PLANT A TREE:** A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Shade provided by trees can reduce your air conditioning bill by 10-15%. Consider growing fruit trees or plant a garden so that you can eat what you grow and avoid trips to the grocery store. Compost your table scraps to reduce landfill waste and help your garden thrive.

(Continued on page 2)



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The County of San Bernardino Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) is a division of the Department of Public Works. SWMD is responsible for the operation and management of the County's solid waste disposal system which consists of six regional landfills, eight transfer stations and three community collection centers. The County contracts with Burrtec Waste Industries for disposal site operations and maintenance. In addition, the Division administers the County's Solid Waste Handling Franchise Agreements and Permit Program; Public Education and Educational Programs, Promoting Waste Diversion through a variety of media, press releases, grant solicitation and administration; Review of Proposed Legislation and Regulations for impacts to the Division's operations and functions; Compliance with AB939 including preparation of annual reports required by the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

For additional information on waste reduction, educational programs and workshops please visit our website at [www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste) or call 1.800.722.8004.

## San Bernardino County Employee's Picnic

The year's employees picnic was on June 6, 2009 at Glen Helen Regional Park.

To promote the importance and benefits of bottle and can recycling, SWMD give away t-shirts made from 50% recycled postconsumer PET (Polyethylene [soda bottles and water bottles] terephthalate) and 50% reclaimed post industrial cotton. To receive a t-shirt, county families and friends collected 10 CRV beverage containers and returned them to SWMD booth.



124.85 pounds of CRV was collected that day. Proceeds went to the San Bernardino County Employees Picnic Fund.



## Tips To Live Sustainably *(Continued from page 1)*

### **REMEMBER TO RECYCLE YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS AT HOME, AT WORK, AND AT PLAY...**

Use your curbside bin or redeem your CRV beverage containers for cash at a nearby recycling center. Enter your zip code in the DOC's recycling center locator at [www.bottlesandcans.com](http://www.bottlesandcans.com) or call 1-800-RECYCLE to find a recycling center near you.

Additional information can be found at:

- Department of Conservation Division of Recycling [www.conservation.ca.gov/dor](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dor)
- California Integrated Waste Management Board [www.ciwmb.ca.gov](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov)
- Green Gift Guide [www.greengiftguide.com](http://www.greengiftguide.com)
- Environmental Protection Agency [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)
- ZERO WASTE Communities of San Bernardino County [www.zerowastecommunities.org](http://www.zerowastecommunities.org)