

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Beverage Container Recycling Program

Consumer Recycling Refund Value...Background to the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Program

California's Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Program is intended to provide customers the opportunity to return beverage containers conveniently, efficiently and economically. In order to accomplish this, recycling centers may pay based on the weight of beverage containers to reduce the time to complete a transaction. To create a weight-based returns system, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), Division of Recycling (Division) establishes separate minimum reimbursement rates for each material type, for example \$1.57 per pound for California Refund Value (CRV) aluminum.

CRV is \$.05 for each container of less than 24-ounce capacity and \$.10 for each container of 24-ounce or greater capacity. The minimum reimbursement rates are based on on-going statewide surveys of beverage containers received at recycling centers. Samples are collected throughout the year from all regions of the state. The containers sampled represent the total of containers redeemed in California. As these minimum rates are statewide averages, they will approximate the amount that the materials are worth if redeemed by count.

Helpful Hints to Ensure Proper Payment of CRV:

- ★ Request payment by weight if you are redeeming beverage containers that vary greatly in size and type.
- ★ As plastic beverage containers vary greatly in size and type, request redemption payment by count if your containers are all of similar size, i.e. all 500-milliliter (16.9 ounce) two-liter bottles.

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The State of California does not own or operate recycling centers. Recycling centers are certified by the State and are required to honor any request for redemption payment by count for up to 50 empty beverage containers of each material type. A recycling center may choose to pay by count for more than the 50 containers, but is not required to do so.

Consumers with questions should call the Division at **1-800 RECYCLE** or should visit the Division's website at www.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer.

Composting

Spring is here! For some it means cleaning out the closet or garage, but for some it's being in the garden and getting their backyard compost bin and pile running once more. Why compost? Composting is nature's way of returning needed nutrients to the soil. Bacteria and other microorganisms, as well as a variety of insects, consume these materials. Dark, earthy, and rich in nutrients, compost makes a great soil amendment or mulch for your garden, beneficial for root growth, improves water-retention in soils, and...

Helps conserve natural resources and saves you money!

Not a very difficult process even a child can maintain.



Mentone Elementary School

★ In the open (pile) or in an enclosed bin. Combine 50% green material known as the nitrogen source sometimes referred to as the "wet materials" (lawn clippings, trimmings, livestock manure, fruit, vegetable scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds) and 50% brown material known as the carbon source sometimes called the "dry materials" (wood chips, dried leaves, straw, sawdust, newspaper). No meat or dairy products. Mix in water until the pile is as damp as a moist sponge. Turn (fluff up) your pile once a week. Add water if needed. Your pile should get warm. After several months (the actual time will vary based on many factors such as how often you turn the pile, the number of composters, i.e. worms, other insects), when the material is a dark brown color and smells earthy like humus, your compost is ready for use.

★ Speaking of worms try "verimcomposting". The best worms to use are "red worms" or "red wigglers". They are different from the earthworms and night-crawlers who live underground and depend on cooler temperatures and an extensive tunneling system to survive. Choose a bin made out of wood, plastic or an old dresser drawer. The bin should be 10-16" deep with a snug-fitting lid and holes in the bottom or side. Pick a place where your worms will not freeze or overheat, i.e. pantry, kitchen corner or garage. 8-10" of bedding will provide your worms with a damp place to live. Common bedding include strips of newspaper, shredded cardboard or peat moss (**do not use glossy paper or magazines**). Moisten the bedding until its as wet as a wrung out sponge. This helps keep them cool and moist and gives them fiber to eat. Add a handful of soil. Worms needed depend of the amount of kitchen waste generated per day. One pound of worms will easily take care of each half-pound garbage. To add the worms to the bins simply scatter them over the top. They will work their way down into the bedding. Start feeding your worms about a quart of fruit and vegetable trimmings. **Do not feed them meat or dairy products.** Meat and dairy products like milk, cheese, eggs whites or yokes will sour and attract rodents. Egg shells are fine to crush and feed to the worms. Be sure to bury your food scraps in the bedding to discourage molds and fruit flies.

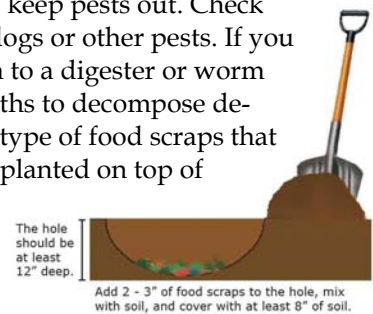


★ You can also try in-ground composting. Food scraps can be buried in empty areas of vegetable and flower gardens, or in holes outside the drip line (below the ends of branches) of trees and shrubs. Use a shovel or post hole digger to dig a hole or trench about one foot deep. Add two to three inches of food scraps to the hole. Chop and mix scraps into soil, then cover the food scraps with at least eight inches of soil to keep pests out. Check occasionally for signs of digging by rodents, dogs or other pests. If you see signs of digging, it may be better to switch to a digester or worm bin. Food scraps may take from up to six months to decompose depending on the season, moisture, soil and the type of food scraps that are buried. Seeds and small seedlings may be planted on top of buried food scraps immediately. Large trans-



Kindergarten student age 5

plants should not be planted until the food has decomposed. Do not bury more food scraps in the same place until the first scraps have been fully composted.



The hole should be at least 12" deep.

Add 2 - 3" of food scraps to the hole, mix with soil, and cover with at least 8" of soil.

Copper Mountain Mesa Community Association



The Copper Mountain Mesa Community Center is located at 65336 Winters Road in North Joshua Tree. The center and the surrounding property is owned by the Copper Mountain Mesa Community Association, a 501 C3, which is run wholly by volunteers and is funded by memberships, donations and various fundraising events. It takes approximately \$1,000.00 per month (including utilities, taxes and insurance) to keep the doors open and provide community services such as Monthly USDA Food Giveaway and Community Potlucks.

A Thrift Room is located on the premises to provide the community with very low cost clothing and household needs as well as a location to donate gently used items that can be used by a neighbor. The building was built in the late 70's with funding from HUD; labor donated by members. The Center relies on Block Grants from San Bernardino County to fund major repairs to the building; everyday maintenance and upkeep is done with donated hours by members. "The addition of the recycling bins donated by San Bernardino County Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) gives us welcomed additional income," said Mary Helen Tuttle, Secretary / Treasure.

When the program was first instituted, one of it's members; Lee Hines; made it his mission to collect as much bottles and cans as possible. He was further motivated by the "matching funds" program that SWMD offered. The Center was able to purchase new signage for the building and start repainting the outside of the building. Lee has since passed and Steve Tuttle is now the "recycler".

Steve is pictured here, with his wife, Mary Helen. The recycling bins are used by the Center – the center was lucky enough to have a soda machine donated also and by neighbors who wish to donate to the Center via their recycling. "Yes, Copper Mountain Mesa Community Association loves their beverages!!" said Mary Helen.

The Center gained a total of \$2,300.00 since the inception of this recycling program.

"Thank you SWMD for all your past help and in advance for your future assistance !!", said the Volunteers and Members.



Steve and Mary Helen Tuttle





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The County of San Bernardino Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) is responsible for the operation and management of the County of San Bernardino's solid waste disposal system which consists of five regional landfills, eight transfer stations and three community collection centers.

Also, the Division administers the County's solid waste handling franchise program and the refuse collection permit program which authorizes and regulates trash collection by private haulers in the unincorporated area.

SWMD offers a wide variety of waste reduction and recycling resources to its unincorporated county area residents and businesses with the goal of greening our environment. Reducing the amount of material being put into landfills will help preserve our limited landfill space, thereby delaying the need for more costly waste disposal.

Stop by and visit us at the following venues. For additional information please visit <http://www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste/events.asp> or call 909/386-8701 or 800/722-8004.

March 26 @10am-3pm – Big Morongo Canyon Preserve & Covington Park, Morongo Valley

April 9 @11am-4pm – Frontier Project, Rancho Cucamonga

April 16 @9am-2pm – Yucca Valley Community Complex

April 16 @8am-Noon – Victorville Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

April 20 @1pm-3pm – Barstow High School

April 23 @9am-3pm – Earth Machine Compost Bin & SYSTEMN Rain Barrel Truck Load Sale
Sylvan Park, Redlands

May 21 @9am-1pm – Victoria Elementary School, San Bernardino



Saturday, April 9 is Countywide Community Cleanup and Recycling Day



County of San Bernardino • Department of Public Works
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909/386-8701 • 800/722-8004
www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste