

Beverage Container Recycling Program

Recycle: verb 1.a. To recover useful materials from garbage or waste, b. To extract and reuse

While recycling is a term generally applied to aluminum cans, glass bottles, and newspapers, water can be recycled as well.

Recycled water refers to treated wastewater of a quality suitable for landscape irrigation but not human consumption. It is becoming increasingly common in California. Gray-water is wastewater from sinks, showers, bathtubs and washing machines that is not contaminated by human waste. Not suitable for drinking, it is an intelligent resource when used for subsurface irrigation of trees and shrubs.

Benefits of Recycled Water:

In addition to providing a dependable, locally-controlled water supply, water recycling provides tremendous environmental benefits. By providing an additional source of water, water recycling can help us find ways to decrease the diversion of water from sensitive ecosys-

tems. Other benefits include decreasing wastewater discharges and reducing and preventing pollution. Recycled water can also be used to create or enhance wetlands and riparian habitats.

Be Water-Wise:

Water-wise landscaping is, however, more than just controlling irrigation and planting Xeriscape to reduce your water bills. Water-wise landscaping also means increasing the water holding capacity of the soil, fostering healthier plants that thrive with less water, and collecting & recycling rainwater.

Rainwater can be channeled through gutters and downspouts to a storage unit. During a 1-inch rain, 625 gallons of water can be collected from 1,000 square feet of roof.

Garden plants thrive on rain water because it is free of chlorine, fluoride and other minerals added to municipal water. Rain water is normally highly oxygenated with a slightly acidic pH, helping plants absorb nutrients easier. The amount of water needed for your vegetable garden depends on how well the soil drains, its capacity to hold water, how much mulch you laid out,

needs of particular plants, the daily temperature, etc. A very rough estimate for a 20' x 20' foot garden would be 600 gallons of water per week.



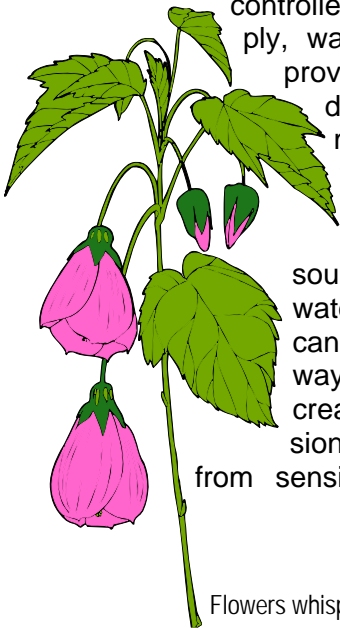
Why Use Rainwater:

- ☆ Rain water is free
- ☆ Improves Groundwater Quality & Levels
- ☆ Capital Improvement for Residence
- ☆ Water Independence and Peace of Mind

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Flowers whisper "Beauty!" to the world, even as they fade, wilt, fall. -Dr. SunWolf

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL & THE COCA-COLA RECYCLING GRANT

In June of 2010, The Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) received a grant from Keep America Beautiful and the Coca-Cola Company to increase CRV beverage container recycling at County offices. SWMD was awarded 500 corrugated recycling containers to be placed throughout the County.



In the initial phase of the grant, 100 of these containers went out to 23 offices. Since then, more than 150 containers have found a new home in the County and have increased recycling efforts for recycling containers. To date, over 1,759.24 pounds of CRV beverage containers have been recycled. Distribution of these containers has now expanded to County Superintendent of Schools and Non-Profit Organizations such as the Urban Conservation Corps of the Inland Empire.

As a part of this program, any County department that wishes to sign up is given the requested number of containers, a set of startup liners and educational information to post. Employees are encouraged to place the containers in high traffic areas or in break rooms near beverage container machines.

We now have over 40 offices with recycling containers! Way to **GO** County Family!

HR & ISD JOIN THE RECYCLING TEAM!

Congratulations to Human Resources (HR) and Information Services Department (ISD) on your success! As of June 2011, HR recycled 120 pounds and ISD recycled 158 pounds of CRV beverage containers!

These programs are successful because office staff participates and the proceeds are used for office events.



Kendra Lakkees and her Recycling Partner Kenyon Smith are recycling stewards for Human Resources



"I think the program is a great way to encourage employees to recycle, especially if they would not have done so otherwise because recycling bins were not supplied. My recycling partner, Kenyon Smith, and I enjoy the job and we even have a game – we both try to guess how much recycling we're turning in and see who gets closest". -Kendra Lakkees, Human Resources

"With the increase in population and decrease in space for waste, recycling has become an important part of everyday life. I am grateful that the Solid Waste Management Division provided us with the bins to help us do our part in helping the County 'Go Green'". -Desiree J. Tomlinson, Information Services Department

Recycle (Continued from page 1)

- ☆ Lower Overall Water Cost
- ☆ Flexibility
- ☆ Less Demand
- ☆ Sustainable Living and Environmental Friendly

Composting:

Compost provides many benefits, including greater drought resistance and more efficient water utilization which reduces the frequency and intensity of irrigation. Compost also increases infiltration and permeability of heavy soils which reduces erosion and runoff and improves water holding capacity, which reduces water loss and leaching in sandy soils.



Compost can greatly enhance the physical structure of soil. In fine-textured (clay, clay loam) soils, the addition of compost will reduce bulk density, improve friability (workability) and porosity, and increase its gas and water permeability, thus reducing erosion. When used in sufficient quantities, the addition of compost has both an immediate and long-term positive impact on soil structure. It resists compaction in fine textured soils and increases water holding capacity and improves soil aggregation in coarse-textured (sandy) soils. The soil-binding properties of compost are due to its humus content. Humus is a stable residue resulting from a high degree of organic matter decomposition. The constituents of the humus act as a soil 'glue,' holding soil particles together, making them more resistant to erosion and improving the soil's ability to hold moisture.

Sources:

www.epa.gov/region9/water/recycling
www.urbangardensolutions.com
www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/HomeCompost



I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers. -Claude Monet

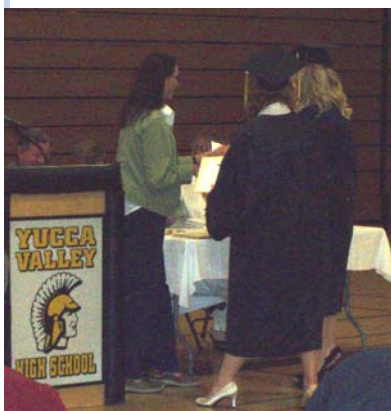
CRV PROCEEDS FUND SCHOLARSHIPS TO MORONGO BASIN HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The Morongo Basin Master Composters / Recyclers presented \$500 Scholarships to each of the three Morongo Basin High School Seniors who will enter a teaching profession, environmental, conservation, or science related field of study; school, community, and environmentally related service or activities. Congratulations...

- ☆Lauren Anderson, Twentynine Palms HS
- ☆Kimberly Louis Hatfield, Yucca Valley HS
- ☆Kritsa Blevins, Yucca Valley HS



Lauren (L) with Tera Bottorff



The funds to support the scholarships were earned by participating in the County's Beverage Container Recycling Program with CRV value. The recycling container is located at Coyote Corner in Joshua Tree. The proceeds from materials redemption are used by the group to support the local high school students.

"Thank you SWMD for all your past help and in advance for your future assistance," said Shirley Hibbetts, Master Composter.

reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink

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SWMD FACTS...The County's Beverage Container Recycling Program started in 2000 with 2 schools. Today, 30 entities including 12 schools participate in the program! Over 90 tons of CRV containers have been diverted!

Some interesting facts...

- ☆ In California, *nearly 22 billion* California Refund Value (CRV)-eligible containers were sold in 2009.
- ☆ Of those, *more than 17 billion* were recycled!
- ☆ Since more than *4 billion bottles and cans* ended up in the landfill, nobody claimed the CRV on them. How much CRV? More than *\$100 million* worth!
- ☆ *CRV refunds are available to anyone*--consumers, companies, or nonprofits--who returns bottles and cans to a recycling center.
- ☆ By eliminating the need to manufacture new products from raw materials, recycling reduces energy use, in turn *reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses in the air*.
- ☆ For every *10 pounds of aluminum* you recycle, you eliminate *37 pounds of carbon emissions* from the air.
- ☆ For every *10 pounds of clear plastic water or soda bottles*, *3.3 pounds of carbon emissions* disappear.
- ☆ And although *glass bottles* are a lot heavier, each *10 pounds* recycled still *reduces carbon by nearly a pound*.
- ☆ In a landfill, aluminum cans take *80-100 years* to break down.
- ☆ Plastic bottles hang around as long as *700 years*.
- ☆ Glass bottles spend *one million years* waiting around to decompose.

Visit CalRecycle for additional information:

[www.http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/Consumers/Facts.htm](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/Consumers/Facts.htm)

If using paper, please use recycled paper—we do!

