

Beverage Container Recycling Program

SPOTLIGHT...

The students & staff at *Eagle Summit Community Day School* are committed to improving their envi-

ronment and community by minimizing their ecological footprint and increasing awareness, and therefore responsibility, amongst the students.

Eagle Summit students are encouraged to display respect, give their best effort and assume responsibility. Associated Student Body (ASB) members, Jesus Acosta, Larry Dockins and Andrew

Scott meet on a monthly basis to promote these behavioral expectations, by encouraging recycling. Grounds Custodian, Jackie Bonelli assists with their recycling efforts.

Going on their 3rd year, the recycling generates about \$30 of ASB funds per month.

Angelina Landeros, ASB Advisor, says “those funds are used to provide incentives for the

students at school. The funds are used to give the students an opportunity to earn prizes for good behavior, grades and attendance. They are also used to provide snacks during state and high school exit exam testing periods”.

The opportunity to recycle gives the students the chance to positively impact the environment and generate meaningful experiences throughout their school campus.

their continuous support.

Eagle Summit Community Day School thanks San Bernardino Solid Waste Management Division for

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This issue has helpful tips for your everyday life - follow even a few and you'll be giving Mother Earth a great gift!



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WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING

It's estimated that between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, more than one million tons of additional waste is generated each week nationwide.

Holidays are a great time for getting together with family and friends. Holiday parties and other activities present many opportunities to reduce waste through reuse and recycling.

Real Christmas Trees Are Recyclable!

Approximately 33 million live Christ-



mas trees are sold in North America every year. **Real Christmas Trees are biodegradable, which means they can be easily reused or recycled.**

After the holidays, look for ways to recycle your tree instead of sending it to a landfill...The trunk and branches of Christmas trees can be used as mulch for gardens, parks or in animal stalls. The mulch provides a protective barrier for the roots of other plants and vegetation while preventing weeds from growing.

The mulch then decomposes, providing the nutrients plants need to thrive.

Some communities use Christmas trees to make effective sand and soil erosion barriers, especially at beaches and on river beds. Sunk into private fish ponds, trees make excellent refuge and feeding areas for fish. Before recycling, Christmas trees can be used to make bird feeders, adding

color and excitement to the winter garden. Use orange slices, suet, and seed to attract the birds. They will come for the food and stay for the shelter in the branches.

Other waste reduction & recycling tips...

- ◆ On family night involve children by creating decorations made from popcorn or cranberries, which can be fed to birds at the end of the season. Out of tags? wrapping paper? bags? Cut holiday cards, use the comic strip sections for wrapping and draw n color on grocery bags.
 - ◆ When you shop, make it a habit to take along and use reusable tote bags.
 - ◆ Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day, it not only saves energy but will also help your lights last longer.
 - ◆ Children's toys collecting dust? Why not pass them on to family members or friends or charities. Public libraries now carry games, puzzles, books, magazines, CD's and DVD's.
- ◆ Baking cookies or other goodies package in reusable or recyclable containers.
- ◆ Hosting your festivity, instead of paper napkins, plates and cups, use cloth towels and napkins, washable plates, glasses, and silverware.
- ◆ If you're buying new greeting cards this holiday season, send recycled-content cards. Buying recycled encourages

manufactures to make more recycled-content products available.

- ◆ Where possible, compost leftover food scraps, leaves and grass clippings. See Page 3 for additional information.

- ◆ If you have a wood-burning fireplace, save your ashes in a tin instead of throwing them away. Cold wood ashes can be mixed in your compost heap to create a valuable soil amendment that provides nutrients to your garden.



- ◆ About 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gift and consider giving a battery charger as well.



- ◆ Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown way, and can save money in the long run.

- ◆ Check Your Tire Pressure. Before your trip, make sure tires are properly inflated to increase fuel economy and drive safely. A reduction of one gallon of gasoline used by every U.S. household this holiday season would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one million tons.
- ◆ Think "Green" while shopping holiday and birthday sales. Try to buy items with minimal packaging and/or made with recycled content. Check product labels to determine an item's recyclability and whether it is made from recycled materials.



And remember to recycle your bottles and cans!

If you want to cut down on the amount of garbage your family sends to the landfill, start by reducing the amount of excess packaging and single-use products you buy. Reuse whatever you can, and when you do dispose of used items, give them another life through recycling and composting.

Visit the following links for additional information.

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/>

ReduceWaste/

<http://greenliving.nationalgeographic.com/reducing-and-recycling/>

COMPOSTING / VERMICOMPOSTING

Here, in California, winter just might be the best time to compost, or at least the best time to start composting if you haven't already. As the leaves start to collect on your precious lawn, don't bag up your leaves and haul them to the dumpster! Collect your leaves to use them in your compost pile. You can also compost your dead (or dying) flowers and other plants from the summer. Make sure they aren't diseased, though, and are just on their way out naturally.

As the winter months roll in, you may notice that your compost pile is not thriving like it was in the warmer months. In cold weather, the natural materials will not break down as easily as they did in the heat. Don't worry—as long as temperatures stay above freezing, your compost will continue to thrive. Continue adding to the pile as usual. Once spring rolls around and the temperatures rise, the microorganisms will automatically start the composting process again. Spread compost over the top of your garden -- 1 or 2 in. thick, or thicker if you have enough compost. You can plant seeds and seedlings in the freshly added compost, or add it to the soil of plants that are already growing.

By composting and using your compost as a soil amendment, you can improve the productivity of your garden while reducing your ecological footprint.

*There is no wrong time to start a **compost bin**. Your compost pile will generate its own heat, so it can actually succeed year round in almost any climate. While it may be easiest to compost during the spring and summer months, it will benefit you and your garden if you compost all year long.*

Another source of compost is **vermicomposting** using red worms, also called red wigglers. These worms process your food waste into a nutrient-rich humus organic amendment for your use in the garden. Your plants will love it!

Worm compost bins are a fun and educational project for children!

The best part is that worm bins are so small -- requiring about a square foot per pound of waste. A box with a loose-fitting lid and 1/4-inch holes drilled in the sides and bottom keep the environment dark, facilitates drainage and allows enough air circulation so the worms don't suffocate. Ideal worm boxes, made from plastic or wood, are only 8- to 12-inches tall. Red worms live in the top 8 to 12 inches of the soil so a deeper box will only create room for rotting vegetable matter to collect.

Once you've decided what type of bin to use you're now ready to add the bedding. Shredded newspaper makes the best bedding. It holds moisture well and provides a light bedding for the worms. The bedding provides a habitat for the worms to live in and protects them from light while staying damp.

Your worms can be fed with vegeta-

ble trimmings and scraps, coffee grounds and filter, used tea bags (remove any tags and staples). Eggshells provide calcium and digestive grit for worms; crush these up before adding them to your bin. When you add fresh scraps, bury them in the bedding to avoid attracting fruit flies and encouraging mold.



Vermicomposting Workshop Wrightwood

Do not put meat, dairy products or fatty materials, including nut butters, in your bin; these attract pests, such as flies and rodents. Citrus products can cause acidity. Human and pet wastes are unacceptable, because they can be a source of pathogens.

You'll know it's time to harvest when you see the brown crumbly compost. Scoop out worms and all. You can also move the contents of your bin to one side, place fresh bedding and start over again.

Visit the following links for additional information.

<http://earth911.com/recycling/garden/composting/>

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/Worms/WormFact.htm>



*County of San Bernardino • Department Of Public Works
Solid Waste Management Division*

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 one community collection center. 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.

For outreach and recycling programs, please visit...
www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste/programs.asp
or call 909/386-8701 or 800/722-8004..0

Happy New Year

From All Of Us At

Solid Waste Management Division

**Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Buy Recycled
Rethink!**

222 W. Hospitality Lane, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA
92415-0017

Phone 909/386-8701 800/722-8004

Fax 909/386-8964

www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste