



For Immediate Release

For Further Information:
Monica Devincenzi, RethinkWaste
Phone: 650-802-3509
Email: mdevincenzi@rethinkwaste.org

SHOREWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER FREE TOUR PROGRAM DRAWS RECORD VISITORS

Over 11,000 People Have Toured the Facility in Two Years

SAN CARLOS, CA - January 31, 2014 - RethinkWaste is excited to announce that its free tour program at the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos has proven to be quite popular with both schools and the general public over the last two years. Over 11,000 people have visited the Shoreway Facility through the nearly 450 tours provided since the program launch in January 2012. Over 6,000 total visitors toured in 2013, which is a 19% increase over 2012 levels. Public visitors increased 73% over 2012 levels, with over 900 visitors in 2013.

The details for the number of tour participants over the two years are provided below:

Table with 3 columns: Category, 2012, 2013. Rows include Number of Tours, School Groups Visitors, Public Visitors, and Total Visitors.

It's been exciting to see the School Groups and Public Tour Program grow in leaps and bounds over the two years it's been in operation, said RethinkWaste Environmental Education Coordinator Faustina Mututa. We continue to host both new and returning teachers and visitors, which is a testament to the popularity and importance of the Environmental Education Program as a resource for the RethinkWaste service area community and beyond.

Through the School Groups and Public Tour Program, tour participants learn about the 4Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle and rot) and resource conservation, and have the unique opportunity to see firsthand what happens to garbage, recyclables and organics once they are picked up from their homes and businesses.

The Schools Groups tours seek to engage students and increase their knowledge through active learning experiences and are based on best practices in environmental education that are connected to the California State Content Standards. RethinkWaste also provides bus transportation for fourth through sixth grade public and private classes in its service area. Tours for the current school year are offered Monday through Friday through June 2014.

610 Elm Street, Suite 202 | P: 650-802-3500 | RethinkWaste.org
San Carlos, CA 94070 | F: 650-802-3501

MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

In addition to the School Groups tours, RethinkWaste holds a monthly Public Open House Day at Shoreway, geared to providing community groups and the general public an opportunity to tour the facility. Public Open House Days are held the third Thursday of the month (except August) from 9:30-10:30 am and 11:30 am-12:30 pm.

The tours include visiting the Transfer Station, where garbage, food scraps and yard trimmings are handled; a state-of-the-art Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), where recyclables are processed; the Environmental Education Center, which includes museum-quality exhibits, reuse art and a talking robot; and an outdoor education area complete with a 10,000 gallon rainwater harvest tank, a composting and gardening demonstration area, and exhibits on water and energy conservation.

RethinkWaste owns the Shoreway Environmental Center, which receives all of the residential and commercial recyclables, organic materials and solid waste collected in its service area by Recology San Mateo County. The Certified LEED® Gold facility by the U.S. Green Building Council also includes a public Transfer Station and Public Recycling Center for use by the general public.

Tour reservations can be made by visiting [www.RethinkWaste.org](http://www.RethinkWaste.org), sending an email to [tours@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:tours@rethinkwaste.org), or calling (650) 802-3506. All tours will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. The Shoreway Environmental Center is located at 333 Shoreway Road in San Carlos.

### RethinkWaste

RethinkWaste is a joint powers authority of twelve public Agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County, California and is a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. RethinkWaste owns and manages the Shoreway Environmental Center which receives all the recyclables, organic materials, and materials (i.e. solid waste) collected in its service area. RethinkWaste also provides strategic oversight, support and management of service providers that collect, process, recycle and dispose of materials for its Member Agencies. RethinkWaste (i.e., South Bayside Waste Management Authority) was formed in 1982. For more information on RethinkWaste, please visit our website at [www.RethinkWaste.org](http://www.RethinkWaste.org) or follow us at [www.Facebook.com/rethinkwaste](http://www.Facebook.com/rethinkwaste) or [www.Twitter.com/rethinkwaste](http://www.Twitter.com/rethinkwaste).

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