



For Immediate Release

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COMPOSTABLE BAGS NOW ACCEPTED IN CARTSMART & BIZSMART COMPOST PROGRAMS
Bags Must Be Approved by the Biodegradable Plastics Institute

SAN CARLOS, CA - February 10, 2011 – Compostable bags can now be used by residents and businesses in the RethinkWaste service area in the CartSMART and BizSMART compost collection programs only. The bags must be certified as compostable by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI).

Originally, the bags were not going to be accepted in the program, however, RethinkWaste in response to requests from many residents, worked with its two organics processing vendors, BFI Newby Island and Recology Grover Environmental Products, to help identify which bags would properly decompose in the composting process. Accepted bags can be purchased at many local stores, including Costco, Whole Foods, Mollie Stones and some Safeway, Walgreens and CVS locations. They can also be ordered online through various vendors. A list of accepted compostable bags can be found by visiting www.RethinkWaste.org.

“We are pleased to be able to offer this expanded compost option now for residents,” remarked Kevin McCarthy, RethinkWaste Executive Director. “However, we ask residents to remain cautious about accepting claims that all plastic bags are ‘compostable’ and make sure they check for the BPI label.”

CartSMART is the new residential Recycle, Compost and Garbage collection program that was rolled out to residents on January 3, 2011. Through the program, residents can add food scraps and food- and beverage-soiled paper products to their yard trimmings in their green Compost Cart. The compostable bags can be used to line residents’ kitchen pails that were also provided for their in-home use to collect their food scraps. Larger BPI certified bags may also be used to line their Compost Carts. Residents can also continue to use newspapers, paper bags or paper towels to line their kitchen pails and collect their food scraps in, or place the food scraps in loosely.

BizSMART is the Recycle, Compost and Garbage collection program for businesses and multi-family dwellings, such as apartment complexes, townhomes and condominiums.

The compostable bags are accepted only in the green Compost Carts and cannot be used in the blue Recycle Carts. No plastic bags are allowed in either the Compost or Recycle Carts.

RethinkWaste

Formed in 1982, RethinkWaste is a joint powers authority comprised of 12 Member 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 and is a leader in implementing innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. RethinkWaste also owns and manages the Shoreway facility in San Carlos consisting of a permitted solid waste transfer station and a recycling processing facility. The Agency’s legal name is the South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA.) For more information on RethinkWaste, please visit our website at www.RethinkWaste.org.

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