



For Immediate Release
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RETHINKWASTE WINS NATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR THE SHOREWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
2012 Gold Award Winner in "Recycling Systems" Category

SAN CARLOS, CA - June 19, 2012 – RethinkWaste is pleased to announce that it was selected as the 2012 Recycling Systems Excellence Gold Award recipient by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), the top national award for a recycling facility. The award will be presented at SWANA's annual national conference, WASTECON, on August 14, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

The award reflects RethinkWaste's five-year, \$46 million master plan project to redesign and construct an innovative recycling and transfer facility at the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos to divert as much material as possible from the landfill.

"It is a real honor and a privilege to receive the top award in the country for our efforts to transform the outdated Shoreway Recycling and Disposal Facility into the Shoreway Environmental Center," remarked Kevin McCarthy, Executive Director of RethinkWaste. "We have an outstanding facility that delivers cost savings to the ratepayers every day through our innovative facility design."

The San Carlos facility encompasses a new 70,200-square-foot Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), where the recyclables from residents and businesses in the RethinkWaste service area are processed. The MRF houses state-of-the-art processing equipment specifically designed to handle single stream recyclables (commingled bottles/cans/paper), and replaces the previously existing 48,000-square-foot building. The new MRF became fully operational in May 2011, and has the capacity to handle over 80,000 tons per year on one operating shift.

The master plan improvements also include a 14,780 square-foot expansion of the existing 62,000 square-foot transfer station building to increase unloading spaces for public customers and allow for a 30,000 ton-per-year increase in organic materials such as plant materials and food scraps collected from local residents and businesses.

The new Shoreway Environmental Center also includes a dedicated Environmental Education Center housed in the MRF building, featuring museum quality exhibits promoting resource

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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

conservation and RethinkWaste programs. The Environmental Education Center is used for tours for schools, community groups and the general public starting and has hosted over 3,000 tour participants since opening in January 2012.

Other features of the Shoreway master plan include a new Public Recycling Center, for the free drop-off of materials for recycling, and a buy-back center for redeeming bottles and cans for their rebates. It also includes a new scale house and related traffic enhancements; and green building features such as the use of photovoltaic (solar) panels to generate renewable energy to power site operations, translucent panels to maximize day lighting, and use of native and low-water plants, among others. The facility was also just certified LEED® gold from the U.S. Green Building Council.

"This award is a great recognition of our dedication and commitment to reduce waste from the landfill and we are excited to see what other opportunities Shoreway holds for us in our sustainability efforts in the future," said Jim Porter, San Mateo County Public Works Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors for RethinkWaste.

SWANA has been the leading municipal professional association in the solid waste field for nearly 50 years. The association serves over 8,000 municipal solid waste professionals throughout North America with conferences, certifications, publications, and technical training courses. SWANA's Excellence Awards Program recognizes outstanding solid waste programs and facilities that advance the practice of environmentally and economically sound solid waste management through their commitment to utilizing effective technologies and processes in system design and operations, advancing worker and community health and safety, and implementing successful public education and outreach programs. Programs also must demonstrate that they are fiscally and environmentally responsible through their compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations. SWANA recognizes programs and facilities with Gold, Silver or Bronze awards in 14 categories.

About 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 www.RethinkWaste.org or follow the agency at www.Facebook.com/rethinkwaste or www.Twitter.com/rethinkwaste.

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