

A Public Agency

The Rethinker is a newsletter dedicated to educating residents and businesses regarding waste reduction, reuse and recycling. With your help, we can achieve our goals of diverting waste from the landfill and maintaining healthy, livable communities.

In this issue:

- Spring & Green Cleaning Tips
- Earth Day Event
- New Collection Program

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♻️ Printed on recycled paper with soy based ink.



RETHINKER

SPRING 2015



Spring Forward to a Greener Home!

It's hard to believe that spring is just around the corner – which means that the cleaning bug will be hitting many of us. Remember there are lots of ways to clean your home that are less toxic to you and the environment.

Green Cleaning Tips

- Baking soda not only removes those strange smells coming from your fridge, it's also a great odor-eliminator for your carpet. Just sprinkle a little on to soak up some of those odors and then vacuum it up.
- Use simple ingredients such as baking soda and vinegar to make your own cheap, easy and non-toxic cleaning products that really work! Here's a link for alternative cleaners: http://eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm
- Skip the store-bought air fresheners and instead try boiling cinnamon, cloves, or any other herbs.
- When replacing your cleaning products, don't just throw the old ones in the garbage. If they're too toxic for your home, they won't be good for the drain or the landfill either. Use our Door-to-Door Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection program to manage them properly! Visit www.RethinkWaste.org for details or call 800-HHW-PKUP (800-449-7587).



Announcements

Celebrate our 4th Annual Earth Day @ Shoreway!

Saturday, April 11, 10 am-2 pm
Shoreway Environmental Center, 333 Shoreway Road, San Carlos

This event includes fun activities for the whole family with informational booths, arts and crafts, games, tours, free compost, and lots more! Everyone who attends will be automatically entered into a raffle.

We will also be recognizing our "Trash to Art Contest" winners. Don't forget to also bring your empty bottles and cans to our buy-back center for redemption. Rethink Waste to Make Every Day Earth Day!

Visit RethinkWaste.org.



Memorial Day | Monday, May 25

No change to CartSMART collection services by Recology. Set your carts out for collection as usual. Recology's administrative offices will be closed. The Shoreway Environmental Center will be open.



The Rethinker

Ask the Rethinker

Dear Rethinker,

Help! I have all these batteries from my kid's toys and my electronic gadgets, but I'm not sure what I should do with them. Can I just throw them away?

— Stuck in San Carlos

Dear Stuck,

Batteries are categorized as Universal Waste, making them hazardous and illegal to throw away in your garbage. But fear not – residents in the RethinkWaste service area have several options for proper recycling! These options also apply to old cell phones ...

- Curbside Recycling – Place used household batteries (no auto batteries) and cell phones (wrapped in paper) in a zip-type plastic bag and place the bag on the lid of your blue Recycle Cart (not inside the cart) on your collection day. Tape button-type and Lithium Ion batteries individually as they can pose a fire danger if not handled properly.
- Door-to-Door HHW Program – Those residents who have the Door-to-Door HHW collection program can also include household batteries and cell phones in their scheduled pick up.
- Shoreway Environmental Center – Free drop off of household batteries and cell phones.

Atherton & Redwood City Door-to-Door HHW Collection Program Starts March 1

The new Door-to-Door Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program starts March 1, 2015 for all residents in Atherton and Redwood City. The program is a convenient way to manage items such as paint, solvents, insecticides, cleaning products, fluorescent bulbs, laptops, computers, monitors, TVs, sharps, and other items.

This program is for all residents, including single-family homes, condominiums, townhouses, and apartments. There is no additional cost for the program and residents may schedule as many appointments as needed.

Other participating communities include Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, San Carlos, City of San Mateo, the West Bay Sanitary District, and parts of Unincorporated San Mateo County.

Visit www.RethinkWaste.org for details or call 800-HHW-PKUP (800-449-7587).



Download the Free "my waste" Mobile App

Did you know we now have a free mobile app (Apple and Android systems) for our CartSMART services? The "my waste" app makes it more convenient for residents who rely on their smartphones to get updates, make service requests such as a Bulky Item Collection appointment, set reminders, and more!

You can download the app by scanning the QR code here or by visiting RethinkWaste.org.

Information & Resources

The regional public agency that helps local communities reduce waste through innovative programs and partnerships and by managing service contracts. **650-802-3500 | rethinker@rethinkwaste.org | www.rethinkwaste.org**

For questions about your bill and the CartSMART program: **Recology San Mateo County**, 225 Shoreway Road • San Carlos, CA 94070 **650-595-3900 | carts@recology.com | www.RecologySanMateoCounty.com [facebook.com/RecologySanMateoCounty](https://www.facebook.com/RecologySanMateoCounty)**

For questions about the Shoreway Environmental Center: **South Bay Recycling**, 333 Shoreway Road • San Carlos, CA 94070 **650-802-8355 | www.SBRecycling.net**



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[rethinkwaste](http://rethinkwaste.org)

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