

Fall 2012/Winter 2013

# rethinker



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www.RethinkWaste.org

## rethinker

A quarterly 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.

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## Have a Wasteless Holiday

There's nothing like the holidays to bring out the shoppers – and wasters – in all of us. According to the EPA and Use Less Stuff, all that added food waste, shopping bags, packaging, gift wrap, bows and ribbons increases the average household garbage by more than 25%. That adds up to sending an additional 1 million tons of trash a week to landfills.

For tips on how to make your holidays greener, visit <http://www.recycleworks.org/resident/giftsandpackaging.html>.



## 2012 Holiday Collection Schedule

There will be no CartSMART Recycle, Compost and Garbage collection services on Tuesday, December 25, 2012 and Tuesday, January 1, 2013.

If your regular collection day falls **on or after the holiday**, your service will be delayed by one day. Your regular collection service schedule will resume the week of January 7, 2013.



MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>DEC 24</b> Regular service	<b>DEC 25</b> Christmas Day NO SERVICE <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>DEC 26</b> Service for Tuesday Customers	<b>DEC 27</b> Service for Wednesday Customers	<b>DEC 28</b> Service for Thursday Customers	<b>DEC 29</b> Service for Friday Customers
<b>DEC 31</b> Regular service	<b>JAN 1</b> New Year's Day NO SERVICE <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>JAN 2</b> Service for Tuesday Customers	<b>JAN 3</b> Service for Wednesday Customers	<b>JAN 4</b> Service for Thursday Customers	<b>JAN 5</b> Service for Friday Customers

Questions? Call 650.595.3900 or visit [RecologySanMateoCounty.com](http://RecologySanMateoCounty.com)

## Holiday Tree Recycling

Recology will collect holiday trees between December 26th and January 31st on your regular collection day. Please remove all decorations and tree stands (flocked trees are ok) before placing next to your Compost Cart for collection. Trees longer than 8 feet in length must be cut into shorter lengths before being placed next to your Compost Cart in order to be collected. *After January 31st, trees need to be cut into pieces and placed inside the Compost Cart; pieces must fit inside the cart.*

### Multi-Family Complex Managers/Owners

Multi-Family (apartments, townhomes, condominiums) complex managers and owners can arrange for holiday tree collection through Recology San Mateo County. Trees can be collected in piles or in a drop box for no additional charge. Please call **650.595.3900** or visit **RecologySanMateoCounty.com** for more information.



## Dear Mario,

*I've been so good this year that I know I'll be getting a new flat screen TV, laptop and MP3 player under my tree this holiday season. But what do I do with my old ones?*

– **Electronics Enthusiast in East Palo Alto**

## Dear Enthusiast,

Like old batteries, electronics can't be placed in the garbage. To make sure you don't get placed on the naughty list, residents in the RethinkWaste service area have several options to properly and conveniently recycle electronic scrap or waste (E-Scrap/E-Waste) – all at no additional cost! They include Recology's Bulky Item Collection Program, the Door-to-Door HHW program, and drop-off at the Shoreway Environmental Center. Visit the "Beyond the Cart" page at [RethinkWaste.org](http://RethinkWaste.org) for more information.



If you have a question for Mario, please send it to: [rethinker@RethinkWaste.org](mailto:rethinker@RethinkWaste.org)

## Announcements

### Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Please refer to the other side of this issue for the complete 2012 Holiday Collection Schedule.



### President's Day

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2013**

No change to CartSMART collection services by Recology. Set your carts out for collection as usual. The Shoreway Environmental Center will also be open regular hours.

### Save the Date! Earth Day

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013**

Join us for our 2nd Annual Earth Day@Shoreway. Look for details at [RethinkWaste.org](http://RethinkWaste.org) in early 2013.



### rethinker Newsletter Schedule

Look for the rethinker newsletter three times a year starting this year: Spring, Summer and a combined Fall/Winter edition. The Spring issue will be inserted in your Recology bill between February and April 2013, with the Summer issue arriving in July 2013.

## Batteries Included

It seems like there isn't a gift out there that doesn't come with batteries, whether it's the latest gadget, or the furry talking friend. But did you know that batteries are categorized as Universal Waste, making them hazardous and illegal to throw away in your garbage? An easy solution to using less batteries is to purchase longer-life single-use or rechargeable batteries. Regardless of what kind of batteries you use, though, residents in the RethinkWaste service area have several options for properly recycling them! These options are also true for old cell phones, replaced almost as often as batteries.

- Curbside Recycling – Please put used household batteries (no auto batteries) and cell phones in a zip-type plastic bag and place the bag on the lid of your blue Recycle Cart on your collection day. Tape button-type batteries individually and wrap cell phones in paper before placing in the bag.
- Door-to-Door HHW Program\* – Those residents who have the Door-to-Door Household Hazardous Waste collection program in their community can also include batteries and cell phones in their scheduled pick up.
- Shoreway Environmental Center – Free drop off of batteries and cell phones at Shoreway's Public Recycling Center, 333 Shoreway Road, San Carlos.



## Information & Resources:



The regional public agency that helps local communities reduce waste through innovative programs and partnerships and by managing service contracts.

Telephone: 650-802-3500  
[rethinker@RethinkWaste.org](mailto:rethinker@RethinkWaste.org)  
[RethinkWaste.org](http://RethinkWaste.org)

For questions about your bill and the CartSMART program:

**RECOLOGY SAN MATEO COUNTY**  
225 Shoreway Road  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
Customer Service: 650-595-3900  
[carts@recology.com](mailto:carts@recology.com)  
[RecologySanMateoCounty.com](http://RecologySanMateoCounty.com)

For questions about the Shoreway Environmental Center:

**SOUTH BAY RECYCLING**  
333 Shoreway Road  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
Telephone: 650-802-8355  
[SBRcycling.net](http://SBRcycling.net)



## Follow Us and Win!



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**twitter**

Help us get to 500 followers on Facebook and Twitter by December 31, 2012, and you'll be entered into a random drawing for \$10 gift cards from Starbucks and Target. By following us, you'll get important information on CartSMART services, tips on sustainability and other environmental facts. (Don't worry, if you already follow us, you will also be entered into the drawing!)

Follow us at [facebook.com/rethinkwaste](http://facebook.com/rethinkwaste) or [twitter.com/rethinkwaste](http://twitter.com/rethinkwaste)

**Want to save paper? Sign up to get the rethinker newsletter electronically by going to our website at [www.RethinkWaste.org](http://www.RethinkWaste.org).**

\*Door-to-Door HHW Program Participating Agencies: Belmont, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, San Carlos, City of San Mateo, some Unincorporated San Mateo County pockets, West Bay Sanitary District