



**For Immediate Release**

For Further Information:  
Monica Devincenzi, RethinkWaste  
Phone: 650-802-3509  
Email: [mdevincenzi@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:mdevincenzi@rethinkwaste.org)

**FREE SHOREWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER TOUR PROGRAM KICKS OFF FOR  
NEW SCHOOL YEAR**

*Busing Available for 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes in RethinkWaste Service Area*

**SAN CARLOS, CA – September 20, 2013** – RethinkWaste has kicked off this school year’s free tour program at the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos now that schools are back in full swing. The School Groups Tour program seeks 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. 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. Over 8,900 people have toured the Shoreway Facility since the tour program began in January 2012 for schools and the general public.

RethinkWaste is also continuing to provide bus transportation for fourth through sixth grade classes in the RethinkWaste service area as this has proven to be a key success factor for the program last year, as well as other environmental education programs throughout the Bay Area. Tours for this school year are offered Monday through Friday through June 2014.

“Our tours are already filling up quickly with new and returning teachers and schools – serving as a testament that they want to learn and value the importance of resource conservation,” said Faustina Mututa, RethinkWaste Environmental Education Coordinator. “Shoreway serves as a one-stop shop to achieve this, with tour participants becoming knowledgeable environmental stewards in a very fun and hands-on way.”

The approximately two-hour tour includes visiting the Transfer Station, where garbage, food scraps and yard trimmings are handled; a state-of-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 more. It also includes hands-on learning activities and pre- and post-tour lessons. In addition, new to the Environmental Education Center is an outdoor area complete with a 10,000 gallon rainwater harvest tank and composting and gardening demonstration area, enabling students and visitors to take back tips on how to conserve water and maintain healthy sustainable gardens at school and at home. This area also has exhibits on where our water comes from, water conservation and energy conservation.

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 tours, RethinkWaste is continuing to offer its free Compost Giveaway Program for schools within its service area. Through the program, schools can receive up to five 50-pound bags of compost for a garden project, or up to 20 cubic yards of the material for landscaping projects per school year. The compost is made from the yard trimmings and food scraps set out by residents and businesses for collection in the green CartSMART and BizSMART containers.

Schools can schedule tours or request compost 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 general public is also invited to visit Shoreway during its Public Open House Days, held the third Thursday of every month from 9:30 am – 10:30 am and 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. The Shoreway Environmental Center is located at 333 Shoreway Road in San Carlos.

### RethinkWaste

Rethink Waste 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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