

Reusable News

Be the Source and the Solution – It's Up to You!

Congratulations Milpitas! From 2010 to 2011, the average amount of individual waste generated by Milpitas residents fell from 4.4 lbs. to 4.2 lbs per day. We are moving in the right direction, but the amount of that trash that is sent to the landfill still remains high. In 2011 alone, Milpitas residents sent a total of 20 thousand tons of waste to the Newby Island Landfill!

Though we recycle and compost materials at a much higher rate than we did a decade ago, much of this progress is offset by a correlating rise in solid waste generation. Remember, as waste production increases so too will the cost of waste management and the rate at which natural resources are depleted.

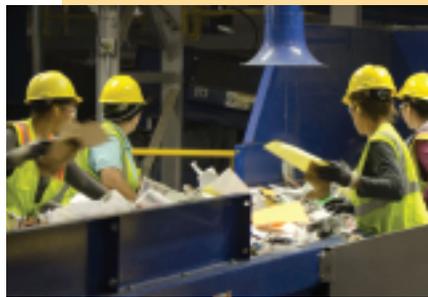
There is a simple solution to this problem and it's close to home. A little planning can reduce the waste we generate by stopping it at the source – Us!

Waste prevention, or "source reduction," is the strategy behind reducing and reusing items and materials before they become waste. By purchasing and using materials in ways that reduce the amount or toxicity of trash created, less waste is generated and fewer natural resources are used. Reuse is a waste prevention strategy that stops waste before we create it and before it can be buried in a landfill. By reducing and reusing, consumers and industry save natural resources and can offset long term disposal costs.

Easy lifestyle changes reduce the amount of waste we generate have a big impact. Whether at home or at work, shopping or enjoying an outdoor picnic, each action we take to reduce our waste contributes to extending the life of local landfills and sustaining the environment.

Newby Island Resource Recovery Park

Republic Services has taken its commitment to environmental sustainability, and its customers, to the next level at the Newby Island Resource Recovery Park (NIRRP), located at 1601 Dixon Landing Road. The NIRRP is a fully integrated waste management facility featuring the most advanced recycling facility in the world, capable of sorting thousands of tons of mixed wet and dry



materials to divert as much as possible from the landfill. The NIRRP also includes organics recycling, construction and demolition recovery, a waste-to-energy facility and an onsite

clean natural gas fueling station.

In 2013, Republic's entire fleet of collection vehicles will be powered by clean natural gas and by 2015, solar and wind power sources will be operational.

Pre-Recycling:

Prevent Before You Purchase

Source reduction tips for your next shopping trip:

- Look for products with the recycling symbol and buy recycled. From packaging to motor oil, using recycled products reduces waste.
- Buy rechargeable batteries instead of disposable ones.
- Choose fluorescent lights which are more efficient and save energy.
- Avoid excessive packaging. If there is more packaging than product - choose another brand.
- Buy durable products and maintain them.
- Buy in bulk when needed, or buy only the amount you'll use.

Choose Less to Give More

During the five weeks between Thanksgiving and New Years, it's estimated that the nation's trash increases by an extra *one million tons per week*. To help trim the trash while trimming the tree, you can reduce waste while you eat, drink, and make merry this holiday season.

Ways to Trim Your Holiday Waste Line:

- Use reusable bags while shopping for a party and gifts.
- Turn down the heat before the guests arrive. You'll save energy while the extra body heat of your guests warms the room.
- Be real for the holidays – use washable dishes, utensils and napkins.
- Give gifts that encourage others to use less stuff, such as gift cards, reusable tote bags, reused books – the possibilities are endless!

- Wrapping can be environmentally-friendly, too: Kid's artwork is perfect for wrapping gifts to relatives. Better yet, give gifts that don't have to be wrapped at all: tickets to concerts and sporting events, museum memberships, houseplants, or even gifts of your time given to help others.

Go beyond recycling to waste prevention this holiday season. Choose less and significantly reduce pollution and waste.

Nature's Way to Reduce Waste

In the U.S., yard trimmings and food scraps make up 27% of the national waste stream. Instead of throwing away your yard and kitchen waste, put them to good use by transforming them into a valuable, organic soil conditioner.

Composting saves resources by reducing trash removal costs and eliminating the need for store-bought chemical fertilizers. It also saves water by improving the soil's moisture retention. The organic material found in compost even promotes the growth of healthier plants by improving the fertility of soil.

People turn to composting as a way to recycle organic waste and improve their gardens and landscaping. For information on how to get started and free composting workshops, visit www.ReduceWaste.org or call the **Rotline** at **(408) 918-4640**. Then start your composting effort off the right way with a free pound of Redworms! The City of Milpitas sponsors this wiggly giveaway for attending any of the composting workshops in Sunnyvale, scheduled March – October. Visit <http://ecityhall.sunnyvale.ca.gov/contact/pwsignup.aspx> to sign up for expert advice.

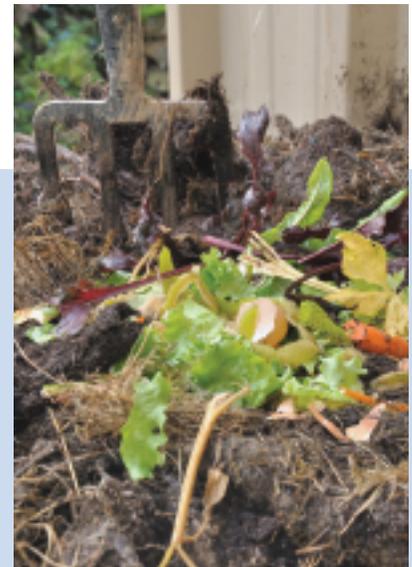
Foam Recycling Drop-off

Republic Services now offers recycling drop-off polystyrene blocks (molded foam) at the **Newby Island Resource Recovery Park!** It's easy, free and good for the environment. Follow these simple guidelines below and call us at **(408) 432-1234** with questions.

- Make sure your foam has the PS 6 (polystyrene) symbol.
 - Place foam in clear, sealed bags.
 - Place packaging foam and food service containers in separate bags.
 - Food service containers **MUST** be clean and rinsed.
 - No straws, lids, plastic wrap or trash.
 - No packaging peanuts. Call 800-828-2214 or go to www.loosefillpackaging.com for drop-off sites.
 - No foam insulation.
- Inside the Recovery Park, please follow signs to the Recyclery Scale. The scale house operator will direct you to the foam recycling drop-off containers.

Foam Drop-off Hours

Monday-Friday: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday: Closed



LITTER – IT COSTS YOU

The next time you take a walk or stop in your car, take a look around. You'll be surprised at how much litter you'll see in a day. Milpitas is a beautiful place to live and work, but carelessly tossed trash diminishes the city's natural beauty and affects the quality of life for the very people living in it – Us!

Litter and illegally-dumped items are moved around by wind, weather and traffic into storm drains, lawns and landscaped areas. The most common items found in Milpitas creeks are plastic bags and convenience food items like cups, straws, lids and wrappers. Hazardous materials contained in litter eventually filter into our creeks and contaminate soil and pollute the very air we breathe. Left to sit too long, litter becomes a breeding ground for rodents and insects, like mosquitoes, that can transmit diseases to humans.

The improper disposal of trash also takes a major toll on us financially.

The United States spends almost \$11.5 billion on litter clean up every year. Littering can even directly affect home value. Studies show the presence of excessive litter in communities can decrease property values by up to seven percent!

So how could someone even consider littering when there are so many negative side-effects? The reasons vary from feeling no sense of ownership

and believing someone else will clean it up to noticing that litter is already present and not thinking there would be harm in adding more.

Litter is harmful and studies show there is no such thing as a "littering type."

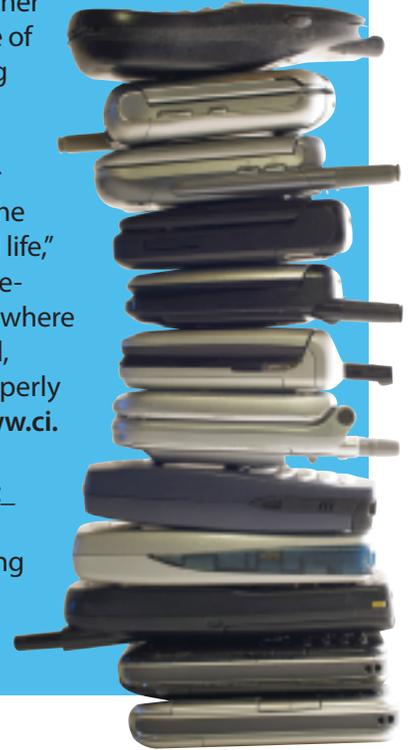
People of all ages and social backgrounds have been observed littering –

men and women, children, and everyone in between are likely to litter. Changing behaviors begins with each of us... and it begins with you! The City of Milpitas sponsors annual creek cleanups on the third Saturday of September and periodic litter pickups. Visit www.ci.Milpitas.ca.gov for upcoming events and volunteer with us!



Don't Just Talk the Talk

Cell phones and other electronics are one of the fastest growing segments of our nation's waste stream. When your electronics reach the end of their "useful life," take them to a state-certified company where they can be reused, refurbished or properly recycled. Go to www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/_pdfs/res_hhw_crt_electronics.pdf for e-waste recycling businesses in Milpitas.



Universal Waste

It's a strange term for a dangerous group of waste products, but these items are universal in two ways: we all use them and eventually, we all throw them away. Instead, recycle hazardous waste products and keep pollutants out of landfills and our environment.

Recyclable hazardous wastes include:

- Household batteries
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Medicines and sharps
- Paint, thinner and varnish
- Helium and propane tanks
- Small fire extinguishers
- Cleaning supplies and aerosol cans
- Motor oil and brake fluid

Visit www.HHW.org or call the **Hazardous Waste Hotline** at **(408)299-7300** to schedule a free Saturday appointment to drop-off hazardous waste products for recycling.

Never pour hazardous liquids on the ground or in a storm drain. Call **911** and report illegal dumping immediately.

Translation information provided upon request.
Please call (408) 586-2680.

La información sobre la traducción está disponible
previa solicitud. Llame al (408) 586-2680.

Thông tin về dịch thuật sẽ được cung cấp khi có
yêu cầu. Vui lòng gọi số (408) 586-2680.

歡迎來電要求提供翻譯資料。
電話為 (408) 586-2680。

अनुरोध करने पर अनुवाद सूचनाएं उपलब्ध करायी जाती हैं।
कृपया (408) 586-2680 पर फोन करें।

For Milpitas Residents: The Latest Recycling and Source Reduction News!



Service
Questions?
407-432-0444

City of Milpitas
Municipal Services Bill:

Online Bill Pay

www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov

Go to right side of web page

1. Find "Get & Pay Your City Utility Bills Online!"
2. Sign-up
3. Save Resources

Questions? Call (408) 586-3100

Yard Trimmings

Use your green cart for
yard trimmings.
No rocks, concrete, sod dirt,
plastic bags, loose fruit or
vegetables, and pet waste.

Recycle Right!

- Plastic containers labeled -
- Please: no black plastic, no Styrofoam!
- White plastic shopping bags
- Aluminum & metal cans
- Glass bottles & jars
- Mixed paper & newspapers
- Flattened cardboard. Place in cart. If full, fold to cart size & stack next to cart.
- Set out motor oil at the curb (not in the street!). Only use jugs available at Milpitas fire stations.

Got Motor Oil?

Don't dump it! Motor oil pollutes
our groundwater. Call the City of
Milpitas Recycling Hotline at 586-2680
for a list of local businesses that accept
motor oil and filters. For curbside
collection, get approved recycling
jugs at Milpitas fire stations and
Allied Waste Services.



4-feet

YARD
TRIMS

2-feet between carts
Please do not block sidewalk

Flattened cardboard, sized
to fit when cart is full

GARBAGE