

# MEMORANDUM

## *Engineering Division*

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**To:** Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission (RSRAC)

**From:** Kathleen Phalen, Utility Engineer  
Leslie Stobbe, Public Information Specialist  
Elizabeth Koo, Administrative Analyst

**Subject:** Recommended Approval of Consultant Agreement Tasks to Support Long-term Solid Waste Planning

**Date:** January 21, 2010

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This memo describes a recommended scope of work for an amendment to the HF&H consultant agreement to assist the City in renegotiating the existing Republic Services, Inc. (formerly Allied Waste Services) agreement for collection and disposal of refuse and collection and diversion of recyclables and to begin planning for future contract service delivery.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Recommend to the City Council amending the scope of consultant agreement with HF&H Consultants, LLC to add:

1. Support renegotiation of the Republic Services, Inc. (Allied) Franchise Agreement, and;
2. Begin the first phase of solid waste diversion and disposal master planning.

### **BACKGROUND**

The City's collection and disposal contracts with Allied will terminate in 2017 and expected capacity of Newby Island landfill will be reached a few years later, so the City will need to obtain replacement solid waste collection, recycling, and disposal services for its residents and businesses.

On August 4, 2009, the City Council entered into a five-year agreement with HF&H Consultants for solid waste management support. The first task under this agreement reviewed Allied's biennial rate application for the contract-specified rate adjustment on January 1, 2010. Subsequent tasks to be presented to the City Council for approval at a later date include the City's long-term planning in support of a solid waste master plan.

The City and Allied completed the 2010 rate application review and rate adjustment as scheduled, but found that the sharp down-turn in the economy caused a drop off of disposal volume from the "roll off" service type primarily used by businesses. This change caused a relatively large increase in unit rates for this customer class. (The roll off class includes the large debris boxes and commercial compactors that need to be picked up and delivered to Allied's facilities for services.) Staff recommended reviewing contract allocation of fixed costs in customer classes to determine if a revised methodology should be recommended before the next scheduled rate increase in 2012.

**DISCUSSION**

The second HF&H task supports renegotiation of the current agreement to address the rate structure. Task activities are as follows:

- Planning future services and contract terms
- Preparing a draft franchise agreement with desired services
- Reviewing Allied's cost proposal for requested services
- Negotiating final agreement and rate structure
- Presenting recommendations to Commission and to City Council

The tentative schedule is to complete these activities in 12 months. The expected outcome is a new franchise agreement that is easier to implement and better serves the Milpitas community.

The third HF&H task begins a solid waste master planning effort with the following activities:

- Identify target sectors and materials
- Identify community needs, programs, and facility options

The tentative schedule is complete these activities over the next 12 months to allow time for discussion, review, and recommendation by the Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Committee. Subsequent tasks that can be added to HF&H's agreement at a later date include estimating diversion and disposal costs, defining short-term and long-term implementation strategy, and preparing the master plan document.

# MEMORANDUM

## Engineering Division



**To:** Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission (RSRAC)

**From:** Kathleen Phalen, Utility Engineer  
Leslie Stobbe, Public Information Specialist  
Elizabeth Koo, Administrative Analyst

**Subject:** Recommended Work Plan for Single-Use Bags & Polystyrene Products

**Date:** January 21, 2010

This memo recommends a work plan to address potential impacts of mandatory measures to control or restrict merchant distribution of single-use carryout bags and polystyrene (Styrofoam) food containers. It also provides a brief overview of regional efforts for the regulation of single-use bags and general information about polystyrene food containers and packaging materials.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Review and approve a draft work plan with a flexible timeline to provide an informed recommendation to Milpitas City Council. Direct staff to return with an updated work plan at the next meeting.
- 2) Authorize special meetings as needed to review developing information and work plan updates from staff.
- 3) Direct staff to present a campaign plan at an upcoming RSRAC meeting to engage community involvement and continue promotions on the use of reusable bags.

Draft work plan\* elements of staff action items:

Ongoing	Collaborate with regional government staff as well as representatives of the grocery, restaurant and plastics industries.
Ongoing	Review the San Jose EIR and other related regional initiatives to determine how these may impact City proposals.
January 2010	Present draft work plan for RSRAC's review and approval.
Future	Develop and implement a community engagement process involving public input on potential ordinance or policy changes.
Ongoing	Update work plan for RSRAC review and approval. Report research findings.
Future	Prepare staff report for RASAC's review and recommended action for Council consideration.
Future	Prepare Council presentation incorporating RSRAC recommendations.
Future	Perform evaluation and proceed as directed. Allow for necessary adjustments.

\*To be monitored and updated continually, this first general work plan allows for revisions or modifications due to outside forces (i.e. regulations) and / or changing conditions.

## **OUTCOME**

Approval of these recommendations would set a path for RSRAC to review potential impacts for mandatory measures of single-use carryout bags and polystyrene food containers. In doing so, the Commission would objectively evaluate issues surrounding these commodities for the purpose of advising the City Council on the recommended course of action concerning adoption of restrictions or a ban on single-use plastic bags and/or take-out polystyrene containers.

## **BACKGROUND**

At its October 20, 2009 meeting, the Milpitas City Council directed staff to work with RSRAC to monitor development and provide review of the City of San Jose's environmental impact report (EIR) on a possible ban of single-use carry-out bags upon completion. The Council action also directed staff to include the study of disposable food packaging and engage business and community partners in the research.

## **ANALYSIS**

An objective recommendation to the Council requires review of current and pending State legislation, regional actions, environmental mandates and requirements, and information from environmental and industry groups. City staff can provide this information to RSRAC for discussion at subsequent meetings. The following brief overview lists current actions in Santa Clara County:

The City of Palo Alto is the only jurisdiction in Santa Clara County with mandatory measures (effective September 18, 2009). Highlights are:

- Single-use plastic carryout bags prohibited;
- Applies only to large grocery stores (staff activity ongoing to include small stores);
- Paper bags allowed if the post-consumer recycled content is 40% or greater;
- Plastic bags allowed in produce and meat departments;
- Reusable bags encouraged to save resources and minimize single-use paper bags.

San Jose City Council conditionally approved a plastic and paper bag ban on September 22, 2009. Conditions include completing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and legal analysis before the ban takes effect in January 2011. The draft EIR may be released for public comment as soon as May / June 2010 and a council review is scheduled thereafter. Specifically, the ban would prohibit the use of single-use carryout plastic and paper bags with the following provisions:

- Apply to all retailers but excludes restaurants;
- Exempt non-profit and social service organizations;
- Exempt the use of "green" paper bags, containing at least 40% recycled content and direct staff to work with retail industry and return to Council with a recommendation on whether a 10 or 25 cent fee for retailers to cover additional costs of "green" paper bags is appropriate;

- 
- Be effective no earlier than December 31, 2010, to allow sufficient time for consumer education and “ramp-up” time;
  - If the California legislature passes legislation relating to a fee or ban on single-use bags before the date of December 31, 2010, this item should return to Council to determine whether to maintain, alter, or eliminate the municipal ordinance; and
  - Exempt bulk or off the shelf purchases of plastic or paper bags.

The County of Santa Clara’s Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission (RWRC) recommended the following to the County Board of Supervisors (October 26, 2009):

- Establish a ban on plastic bags and a ban or fee on paper bags at all retailers (amount to be determined), excluding restaurants and fast food establishments;
- Exempt non-profit reuse stores (e.g. Goodwill Industries and The Salvation Army) from the ban and the fee for one year if they have a reusable bag credit program;
- Adopt such an ordinance with an effective date no sooner than December 1, 2010.

Currently, none of these ordinances / proposed measures includes a ban or fee on polystyrene (Styrofoam) food containers. Polystyrene can be made into two types of consumer products: rigid (cutlery, aspirin bottles, compact disc jackets), or foam (cups, egg cartons). Expanded polystyrene (EPS) is a lightweight, usually white plastic commonly used to make food containers and packaging for shipping (i.e., restaurant take-out “clam shells” and “molded foam” blocks surrounding durable goods,). It typically has a one-time use. EPS foam is not accepted in the City’s residential and commercial recycling programs due to contamination concerns (food containers), its low weight-to-volume ratio (molded foam), current high processing costs and low market value as a recyclable commodity. City recycling programs do accept rigid containers (known as extruded polystyrene). Various industries effectively recycle EPS foam due to the large quantities generated and some curbside recycling programs and drop-off centers in California also accept this material. Recycling EPS foam is complex and an element of the polystyrene issue that staff can report to RSRAC.

# MEMORANDUM

Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission

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**To:** Interested Parties

**Subject:** Addendum to Agenda

**Date:** January 25, 2010

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- Attached is an addendum to the January 26, 2010 agenda. The attachment consists of a letter from the American Chemistry Council dated January 20, 2010 from Ryan Kenny, Manager, State Affairs, American Chemistry Council.



January 20, 2010

Mr. Ed Blake  
Chair, Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission  
455 East Calaveras Boulevard  
Milpitas, California 95035

Dear Chairman Blake:

As you know, the Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission (Commission) will be considering at the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting a policy on plastic retail bags. The American Chemistry Council (ACC) is a national trade association whose membership includes the nation's leading plastic bag manufacturers.

Though we support efforts to reduce litter and disposal of plastic retail bags, we believe the most environmentally responsible solution to addressing plastic bag waste is a comprehensive program that employs a reduce, reuse, and recycle approach. ***Recycling should be the focus of such a program to enable plastic bags to have a second life as other useful products***, such as pallets, containers, crates, pipes, and new bags. As you deliberate on this issue, ACC respectfully requests that you consider the following information prior to making any final decision:

- **EIR Needed:** An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act has not been completed, and therefore, with so much information and data not yet collected and analyzed, choosing a specific policy position at this time is premature. According to San Jose city staff, their EIR will not be completed until March.
- **San Francisco Bag Ban:** Studies analyzing the effects of bag regulation are scarce, but those that have been conducted have produced some interesting results. For instance, the City of San Francisco passed a plastic bag ban ordinance (without any regulation of paper bags), and concluded from their 2008 *Streets Litter Re-Audit* that:
  - Plastic bag litter ***remained the same*** before and after the ban at only 0.6%
  - Total bag litter ***increased*** 1.5%
  - 51% of the litter composition is ***fiber-based***, thus debunking the notion that plastic bags are a serious litter problem.
- **AB 2449:** California's landmark law requires all large grocery stores and pharmacies to provide a recycling bin for plastic bags and to provide reusable bags for purchase. The bins provide a statewide consumer infrastructure that can capture not only recyclable plastic grocery bags but newspaper, dry cleaning, toiletry, and other bags and film as well. ***If plastic bags are banned, the stores in affected jurisdictions could simply opt out of providing and servicing the bins and thus eliminate a convenient consumer recycling infrastructure.*** As an example, a recent study done by [www.use-less-stuff.com](http://www.use-less-stuff.com) found that after the City of San Francisco banned plastic bags, ***plastic recycling bins had been removed from many stores after the ban took effect.***
- **Plastic bag and film recycling is increasing:**
  - Nationwide over 830 million pounds of bags and film were recycled in 2007 (the last year figures are available) – up 27 percent from 2005.



- According to the Environmental Protection Agency's data, about 12 percent of plastic bags and film were recycled in 2007.
- **Paper vs. Plastic:** Any policy that would shift consumer preference from a fully recyclable plastic bag to a paper bag results in often overlooked environmental impacts. For example:
  - Paper bags consume 70% more energy to manufacture than plastic bags.<sup>1</sup>
  - For every seven trucks needed to deliver paper bags, only one truck is needed for the same number of plastic bags, helping to save energy and reduce emissions.
  - It takes 91% less energy to recycle a pound of plastic than it takes to recycle a pound of paper.<sup>2</sup>
  - Plastic bags generate 80% less waste than paper bags.<sup>2</sup>
  - Plastic bags generate only 50% of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of composted paper bags.<sup>1</sup>
  - The production of plastic bags consumes less than 6 percent of the water needed to make paper bags.<sup>1</sup>
- Since paper bags cost stores substantially more than plastic bags, a ban on fully recyclable plastic bags could result in increased business and consumer costs. We believe any such policy discussion should include an assessment of the economic impacts – both for the consumer and local businesses.
- **Unintended Consequences in Ireland:** Most people reuse their plastic retail bags for pet waste, lunches, umbrella holders, etc. and any fee-based model would be akin to what Ireland experienced when they implemented a bag tax in 2002 because they did not have a plastic bag recycling infrastructure: sales of plastic bags to grocery stores declined 90% but sales of other plastic bags increased over 400%.
- **Waste Stream:** According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the amount of plastic bag litter in the waste stream is 0.5%. Plastic bags account for only 0.5% of the litter composition in Toronto, 0.6% in San Francisco, and 0.75% in Ireland.

With plastic bags being such a small amount of the municipal litter composition, we believe that efforts should be undertaken to reduce litter of ALL types, increase recycling, and improve the overall environmental landscape. This is a complex undertaking that requires the active participation of industry, government, non-profit groups, and consumers. All carry-out bags (plastic, paper, reusable) have some form of environmental impact and no product or material is manufactured or used "in a vacuum."

- **High Demand for Plastic Bags:** The major U.S. plastic bag manufacturers have undertaken a landmark effort to support "closed loop" recycling of used plastic bags and product wraps into new plastic bags. Through "The Full Circle Recycling Initiative," plastic bag manufacturers have set an aggressive goal of 40 percent recycled content in plastic bags by the year 2015.

We'd appreciate your giving serious consideration to this information before proceeding with any policy to restrict plastic bags. Our industry has promoted recycling of plastics throughout the U.S. and is currently engaged in several public-private partnerships aimed at increasing the amount of materials collected. We request the opportunity to work with you and other stakeholders on a similar retail bag policy that makes sense environmentally and economically. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Ryan Kenny  
 Manager, State Affairs  
 American Chemistry Council

cc: Members, Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission

<sup>1</sup> Boustead Consulting & Associates Ltd. *Life Cycle Assessment for Three Types of Grocery Bags – Recyclable Plastic; Compostable, Biodegradable Plastic; and Recycled, Recyclable Paper*. 2007. See: [http://www.americanchemistry.com/s\\_plastics/doc.asp?CID=1106&DID=7212](http://www.americanchemistry.com/s_plastics/doc.asp?CID=1106&DID=7212)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Questions about Your Community Shopping Bags: Paper or Plastic*. See: <http://web.archive.org/web/20060426235724/http://www.epa.gov/region1/communities/shopbags.html>

# MEMORANDUM

## Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission

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**To:** Interested Parties  
**Subject:** Addendum to Agenda  
**Date:** January 26, 2010

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- Attached is a message received from the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce regarding their stance on the proposed plastic bag tax:

-----Original Message-----

From: government@milpitaschamber.com [<mailto:government@milpitaschamber.com>]  
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2010 4:52 PM  
To: Elizabeth Koo  
Cc: gaye@milpitaschamber.com  
Subject: Bag Issues

TO: The Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission,

The Milpitas Chamber of Commerce and the Coalition of Chambers of Commerce of Santa Clara County have been opposed to the bag tax as proposed by the County Commission and the City of San Jose.

Thank you,

Frank J. De Smidt  
Chair: Government Affairs  
Milpitas Chamber of Commerce  
828 N. Hillview Dr.  
Milpitas, CA 95035  
408-262-2613

**CITY OF MILPITAS**  
**RECYCLING AND SOURCE REDUCTION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**BYLAWS**

This Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission was established by the Milpitas City Council on October 8, 1991.

Section 1.     Purpose

The purpose of the Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission is to serve as an advisory body to the City Council on matters concerning the implementation of the City's Source Reduction & Recycling Element, Household Hazardous Waste Element, and the City's achievement of diversion goals mandated by the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989.

Section 2.     Membership

The Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission is composed of seven (7) members and two (2) alternates appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. In addition, the City Council may appoint a Council liaison to serve on the Commission in a non-voting capacity. The Commission membership shall consist of three Milpitas residents or residents within the boundaries of the Milpitas Unified School District, three business sector representatives, and one institutional representative.

Section 3.     Term of Office and Removal

The term of office for Commission members is three years, or until reappointed or a successor is appointed. The term of office for alternates is two years, or until reappointed or a successor is appointed. Members and alternates are expected to attend all meetings. When any member or alternate has three or more unexcused absences in a 12-month period, the Commission shall forward this information to the City Council for review and possible removal of the member or alternate from the Commission. Any member or alternate of the Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission may be removed from office by a majority vote of the City Council at a regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Members may apply for reappointment by submitting a letter or email of interest to the Mayor with a copy to the Commission Chair one month prior to the expiration of his/her term of office. Any member of the Commission who wishes to resign should submit a letter of resignation to the Mayor with a copy to the Commission Chair.

Section 4.     Vacancies

Vacancies will be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment.

Section 5.     Officers

A Chair and Vice Chair will be selected annually at the first meeting of the year from the appointed members for a term of one year. The Chair will call for meetings and preside over all sessions.

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair will preside. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, the member with longest continuous service on the Commission will preside.

Section 6. Meetings

The Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission shall hold meetings on the fourth Tuesday of January and July, at 7:00 p.m. All meetings shall be open to the public. Should a scheduled meeting occur on a holiday, said meeting will be deferred to the same day of the following week or to a date agreed upon by a majority of the Commission. Special meetings of the Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission may be called by a majority of the members, Chair, or City Council. Notice of any special meeting shall be given as required by law. Except as otherwise provided by these Bylaws, the Commission will follow the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order for the orderly conduct of meetings.

Section 7. Quorum

Any four (4) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 8. Voting and Seating of Alternates

Voting authority is extended to seven (7) members of the Commission. An alternate member shall vote only if seated in the absence of a regular member. In the event that a regular member is absent, alternate members shall be seated in order of their alternate position. If a member arrives after an alternate has been seated, the alternate shall remain as the voting member until the end of the meeting.

Section 9. Duties of Commission to be Advisory Only

It is intended that the Commission shall be an advisory body to the City Council. Nothing herein contained shall be construed as a limitation on the power of the City Council or the administrative staff of the City in their supervision or authority over property or personnel which are under their jurisdiction.

Section 10. Assistance of Staff

The City Manager of the City of Milpitas shall provide the Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission with such information and staff assistance as the Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission may from time to time request subject to the limitations imposed by the City Council. The staff member designated by the City Manager shall attend meetings of the Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission and submit such reports as said Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission may request and as deemed necessary or desirable, subject to limitations imposed by the City Council.

Section 11. Amendments

These Bylaws and operating procedures may be amended by simple majority of those voting at any legal Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission meeting, subject to approval by City Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Milpitas City Council on the 19th day of August, 2003.

AMENDED AND APPROVED by the Recycling & Source Reduction Advisory Commission, the 22nd day of January 2008.

AMENDED AND APPROVED by the Milpitas City Council on the 19th day of February, 2008.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Milpitas City Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2009.

# Residential Recycling Services

## Collection Safety

If your neighborhood is tight on curbside space on collection day (for example, a large amount of street parking, narrow streets or driveways) consider moving your car to the garage, driveway or another street where you feel secure parking your vehicle. If you aren't able to move your car, set carts and cans out as close to the guidelines as possible.

As a safety precaution, always be mindful of driving around an Allied Waste truck. If you can't see the driver, the driver likely can't see you.

## Proper Set-Out is Important

When placing your carts, cans or bags at the curb on collection day, remember to follow Allied Waste's guidelines for a safe, clean pick-up.

- Place carts in the street wheels against the curb, 4 feet away from parked vehicles.
- Place carts at least 2 feet apart. This allows your driver to easily service the containers in an efficient manner
- Fold or cut extra cardboard to fit in the recycle cart. Place next to the cart if it is full. (*See About Cardboard, pg 2!*)
- Place 32-gallon cans with lids and 32-gallon plastic bags tied at the top at the curb, not in the street. Cans cannot weigh more than 75 lbs. and bags cannot weigh more than 25 lbs.
- Use only approved jugs for motor oil recycling (available at Milpitas Fire Stations) and set next to your carts at the curb, not in the street. Two-gallons per week per resident. Remember, only used motor oil will be collected. Allied Waste can't recycle anti-freeze or any other auto fluids.

City of Milpitas Municipal Services Bill:  
**Online Bill Pay**

[www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov](http://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

## Hazardous Wastes ...in MY home?!?!

Yes! Do a "Safety Cleaning"  
and call the

### Hazardous Waste Hotline

at 299-7300 for a  
**FREE** Saturday  
appointment.

## 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.

## 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.



## Extra Yard Trims Options

- Call **Allied Waste Customer Services** at **432-0444** for a free extra yard trims sticker.
- Place extra trims in a clean 32-gallon garbage can. Place the can at the curb, not on the street.
- Attach the extra yard trims sticker on a clean 32-gallon can. Face sticker towards the street.
- Your green yard trims must be set out with the extra yard trims.
- Place yard trims cart on the street in front of the curb, lid closed.
- For tree trims and brush not fitting in the cart, tie with twine into three-foot bundles and place at the curb, not on the street. Be sure to keep bundle diameter nor larger than the width of your yard trims cart.
- REMINDER: Rocks, concrete, sod, dirt, plastic bags, loose fruit or vegetables, and pet waste are NOT ACCEPTED as yard trimmings.

### Accepted

Grass Clippings  
Brush & Weeds  
Prunings & Tree Trimmings  
Leaves  
Tree Trunks of less than 6" in diameter & 3' in length  
Vegetables & fruit on the vine or limb

### Not Accepted

Rocks  
Concrete  
Sod  
Dirt  
Plastic Bags  
Loose fruit or vegetables  
Pet Waste

Always flatten and cut or fold cardboard to fit inside your cart. When the cart is full, flatten and size cardboard to fit inside the cart, and then stack it next to the cart.

## A Few Words About Cardboard

Your driver can collect cardboard placed next to the cart only when it is sized to fit inside the cart. *Cardboard that does not fit into your cart can't be collected. If this happens, drivers will leave a non-collection notice.*

For extra cardboard, drivers first empty your full recycling cart, dismount the vehicle to put properly sized cardboard into the cart and then empty the cart again.



## Post-Consumer vs. Pre-Consumer

Post-consumer materials include any items that have been used by consumers or businesses and collected for recycling. Pre-consumer materials include "waste" items generated during manufacturing, such as paper trimmings at paper mills. By choosing products with the highest percentage of post-consumer materials, we support recycling collection programs.

## Recycled Content vs. Recyclable

These terms can be confusing. "Recycled content" means the product or its packaging material is made from recycled material; but a recyclable product is one that can be recycled after it has reached the end of its useful life. While it is important to look for products with both recycled content and that can be recycled, buying a "recyclable" product only has meaning if you can, and will, actually recycle it in Milpitas. *Remember, not all city recycling programs accept the same materials.*

## Green Shopping Tips

- **Save energy – shop in Milpitas!**
- Buy products made from recycled materials.
- Take reusable shopping bags to the grocery store and mall.
- Buy what you need – use what you buy.
- Buy products with less packaging.
- Avoid single-use, throwaway products.



Solid or filled-in arrows means the product is made with recycled content and is recyclable.



Open or outlined arrows means the product is not made with recycled content but is recyclable.



## Happy Holidays from the City of Milpitas!

### 'Tis better to give than to receive. Give the gift of a low-waste holiday



#### Try these gift ideas:

- Language, sports, or music lessons
- Admission to a museum or exhibition, or tickets to a play
- Membership to a club or association
- Health spa gift certificate
- On-line magazine subscription
- Park passes and fishing licenses
- Transit passes and tickets

#### For kids, give the special gift of your time:

- A day at a regional or national park
- Dinner out for a favorite food
- A movie

#### Give Investments

Most gifts don't last long, but investments do, especially for youngsters:

- Start a 529 college savings plan. Visit [www.savingforcollege.com](http://www.savingforcollege.com).
- Give U.S. savings bonds. Visit [www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov).
- Open an Education IRA with a broker or financial planner.

#### Still want to give a wrapped gift?

- Give a gift card or certificate. The recipient will get he or she really wants.
- Buy "durable durables." Durable goods are expected to last 3 years. But do they? Electronics become obsolete, and novelty toys collect dust. How about bikes, tools, a live tree, or good kitchenware?
- Let a child's mind "grow into" the toy. Choose toys that challenge: musical instruments, art supplies, tools, chess sets.
- Buy pre-owned. A thrift shop or flea market may have the perfect gift.
- Buy goods with recycled content.
- Send e-greetings for the holidays.
- Wrap a gift in a scarf, tote, backpack, toolbox or bucket that becomes part of the gift.

#### After the Holidays:

- You'll have things you don't need, since you received gifts that "upgrade" them. You may also have gifts you don't want. Give unwanted items in good condition to local charities. Remember, giving drops off after the holidays, as people forget the needy.

*Continued on back page*

## The Biodegradability Myth

A recent claim in markets is that all products are biodegradable. Biodegradable material is that which can be naturally broken down into organic components. Technically, everything will eventually break down, but at what rate? Archeologists have dug up 15 year old newspapers (that can still be read!) from sanitary landfills.

From a practical perspective, be careful about buying products with this claim. Most "biodegradable products" cannot deliver what they say. For the best resource conservation, stick with reusable products and materials.



## Closing the Loop

Recycling is a three-step process – that's why the recycling symbol has three chasing arrows:

**Step 1: Collection** – when you place recyclables in the single stream cart.

**Step 2: Manufacturing** – when recyclables are processed into raw materials for new products.

**Step 3: Buying Recycled** – when you buy products from recycled materials.

Recycling only works when all three steps happen in that order. *You aren't really recycling until you buy recycled.*

This holiday season, look for recycled products or those with packaging made from post consumer recycled content. Then, buy recycled throughout the New Year!

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

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

歡迎來電要求提供翻譯資料。  
電話為 (408) 586-2680。

Thông tin về dịch thuật sẽ được cung cấp khi có  
yêu cầu. Vui lòng gọi số (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 Waste Reduction News!



Reuse line 586-2680



Service Questions?  
432-0444

Continued from page 3

### After the holidays:

- All those catalogs you used, to help with shopping, just keep coming and coming. The average American receives more than 500 pieces of junk mail each year! That's about a tree for every household. Call the ordering number on the back of the catalog and stop delivery. Visit [www.StopJunkMail.org](http://www.StopJunkMail.org) to cut down on your junk mail.
- Recycle your tree. **Call Allied Waste Customer Service** at 432-0444 for set out instructions.
- Bring used packaging peanuts and other materials to a Milpitas mailing store.
- And, of course, recycle all those catalogs, cardboard boxes, cards and paper wrap!



**YES**

Inside your white recycling bin:

- Mixed Paper (mail, office, newspaper)
- Flattened cardboard
- California Redemption Value beverage containers labeled CRV and CA Cash Refund (glass and plastic bottles, aluminum cans)
- Plastic bags, bread bags and food bags (clean and bundled in a larger bag)
- Plastic food containers stamped 1 thru 7

**NO**

- Black plastic/bags
- Polystyrene (Styrofoam™)
- Wood
- Raw food and cafeteria waste
- Food wrappers
- Restroom waste
- Hospital waste
- Glass panels & fluorescent light bulbs
- Photographs and compact discs
- Carbon paper
- Bubble wrap/Plastic wrapped materials
- "Peanuts" packaging material

**SÍ**

En el interior del recipiente blanco de reciclaje:

- Papel mixto (correspondencia, oficina, periódico)
- Cartón aplanado
- Recipientes de bebidas con Valor de Canje de California identificados como CRV y CA Cash Refund (botellas de vidrio y plástico, latas de aluminio)
- Bolsas de plástico, bolsas de pan y bolsas de alimentos (limpias y depositadas juntas en una bolsa más grande)
- Recipientes de plástico para alimentos identificados con los números 1 al 7

**NO**

- Material/Bolsas de plástico negro
- Espuma de estireno (Styrofoam™)
- Madera
- Alimentos crudos y desechos alimenticios
- Envolturas de alimentos
- Desechos de los baños
- Desechos de hospitales
- Paneles de vidrio y accesorios de iluminación fluorescente
- Fotografías y discos compactos
- Papel carbón
- Burbujas de plástico/Materiales envueltos en plástico
- Bolitas de espuma para empaquetar

**जी हाँ**

आपके सफेद रिसाइकिल बिन के अंदर:

- मिश्रित कागज (मेल, कार्यालय, समाचारपत्र)
- चपटे कार्डबोर्ड
- कैलीफोर्निया रिडेम्प्शन वैल्यू बीवरेज जिन पर CRV और CA नकद वापसी का लेबल लगा हो (ग्लास और प्लास्टिक की बोतलें, एल्युमिनियम के कैंस)

- प्लास्टिक के थैले, ब्रेड के थैले और खाद्य पदार्थों के थैले (स्वच्छ तथा किसी बड़े थैले में गठ्ठर बनाए गए)
- 1 से 7 तक के स्टैप लगे प्लास्टिक के खाद्य कंटेनर

**जी नहीं**

- काले प्लास्टिक/थैले
- पॉलीस्टाइरिन (Styrofoam™)
- काष्ठ
- कच्चे खाद्य पदार्थ और कैफेटरिया के अपशिष्ट
- खाद्य पदार्थों के रैपर
- विश्रामगृह के अपशिष्ट
- अस्पताल के अपशिष्ट
- ग्लास पैनेल्स एवं फ्लोरोसेंट लाइट के बल्ब
- फोटोग्राफ और काम्पैक्ट डिस्क
- कार्बन पेपर
- बबल रैप/प्लास्टिक में लपेटी गयी सामग्रियां
- "मूंगफली" पैक करने की सामग्री

**可以**

白色垃圾回收盒内：

- 混合紙張 (郵件、辦公紙張、報紙)
- 折平的卡紙板
- 加州兌現金計劃 (California Redemption Value) 的飲料容器，即上面標示有 CRV 及 CA Cash Refund (CA 現金退款) 的玻璃瓶、塑膠瓶及鋁罐
- 塑膠袋、麵包袋及食物袋 (必須乾淨且集中放入較大袋子內)
- 標有 1 號至 7 號的塑膠食物容器

**不可以**

- 黑色塑膠 / 袋
- 保麗龍 (Styrofoam™)
- 木材
- 未煮過的食物及餐廳廢棄物
- 食物包封物

- 廁所廢棄物
- 醫院廢棄物
- 玻璃板片及日光燈泡
- 相片及光碟
- 複寫紙
- 氣泡紙 / 塑膠包封材料
- 「泡沫花生粒」包裝材料

**CÓ**

Trong thùng tái chế màu trắng của quý vị:

- Giấy Hồn Hợp (thư, văn phòng phẩm, báo chí)
- Bia cứng đã đập dẹp
- Các côngtenơ California Redemption Value dán nhãn CRV và CA Cash Refund (chai thủy tinh và plastic, lon nhôm)
- Túi plastic, túi đựng bánh mì và túi đựng thức ăn (rửa sạch và bỏ vào túi lớn)
- Hộp đựng thức ăn bằng plastic được đóng dấu từ 1 đến 7

**KHÔNG BỎ**

- Túi/túi plastic màu đen
- Túi Polystyrene (Styrofoam™)
- Gỗ
- Thức ăn sống và rác thải cần tin
- Giấy gói thức ăn
- Rác thải phòng vệ sinh
- Rác thải bệnh viện
- Các tấm thủy tinh & bóng đèn huỳnh quang
- Ảnh chụp và đĩa compact
- Giấy than
- Giấy bong bóng/Vật liệu được gói bằng plastic
- Vật liệu đóng gói "đậu phộng"

Recycling Questions?  
Call Allied Waste Services  
**(408) 432-1234**

¿Tiene alguna pregunta sobre el reciclaje? Llame a Allied Waste Services  
**(408) 432-1234**

प्रश्नों को रिसाइकिल कर रहे हैं?  
सहबद्ध अपशिष्ट सेवाएं को फोन करें  
**(408) 432-1234**

有任何回收服務的疑問嗎?  
請致電聯合廢棄物服務公司 (Allied Waste Services)  
**(408) 432-1234**

Nếu Có Thắc Mắc Về Việc Tái Chế? Xin Gọi Dịch Vụ của Allied Waste  
**(408) 432-1234**



Small Business Hazardous Waste  
Call **(408) 299-7300**

Desechos Peligrosos de Negocios Pequeños  
Llame al **(408) 299-7300**

लघु उद्योगों के खतरनाक अपशिष्ट के लिए  
**(408) 299-7300** पर फोन करें

小型商家的危險廢棄物 (Small Business Hazardous Waste) 聯絡電話為  
**(408) 299-7300**

Đối Với Vấn Đề Rác Thải Nguy Hiểm của Tiểu Doanh Nghiệp, Hãy Gọi  
**(408) 299-7300**

# 2010 Street Sweeping Calendar - Section A

JANUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jan 1-2 – Service interruption (Fri collection takes place Sat); Jan 1-8 – Holiday tree collection

FEBRUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Apr 17 – Compost Giveaway

MAY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

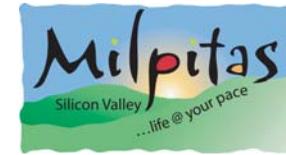
Sep 13-19 – Pollution Prevention Week

OCTOBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOVEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Nov 25-27 – Service interruption (Thu service occurs Fri; Fri service occurs Sat)

DECEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



*Keep our streets clean and protect our creeks.*

*Save this calendar and move your car on sweep day!*

### KEYS

- Street Sweeping Days
- Household Dump Days (2nd and 4th Saturdays)
- Neighborhood Clean-up Day
- Compost Giveaway
- America Recycles Day
- Service Interruption
- Pollution Prevention Week
- E-Waste Drop-off Event
- Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event



Questions? Call Allied Waste Customer Service at 408.432.0444