

West Valley Recycles!

Spring 2008

10 Simple Ways to Celebrate Earth Day – Every Day.

In honor of Earth Day: Ten simple things anyone can easily do to pay tribute to the Earth and care for the earth's environment.

1. REDUCE

Skip the bottled water. It's expensive, and it produces large amounts of waste. Use a reusable water bottle when possible and filter your tap water for drinking, save money and make a big difference.

2. REUSE

Most products we buy cause greenhouse gas emissions during production and distribution. Take your lunch in a reusable lunch box instead of a disposable one. Reuse grocery bags and just say no to disposable utensils.

3. RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE

Of course, you already know that recycling saves energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. But did you know this? If the recycling rate for aluminum and steel cans, plastic #1, glass, newspaper and corrugated

cardboard increased just 10%, 3.9 million more tons of materials would be recycled, saving enough energy to power 1.5 million homes for one year. Check out the recycling how-to page at www.westvalleyrecycles.com

Okay, those were pretty easy; why not try some of these?

4. BUY RECYCLED

Purchasing recycled products completes the recycling loop. By buying recycled, you play an important role in making the whole process a success. As consumers demand more environmentally sound products, manufacturers will have to meet that demand by producing high quality recycled products.

5. WALK OR RIDE YOUR BIKE TO WORK OR SCHOOL

Save money on gas and parking while improving your health and dropping pounds. Stop and smell the roses. If you live too far from your office, explore telecommuting, public transportation or carpooling.

6. SWITCH TO CFLs

Switch to the "twisty bulbs," called compact fluorescents, or CFLs. These replace incandescent, halogen and other lights around your house to use up to 80% less energy. But remember: All fluorescent lamps and tubes are hazardous waste and must be taken to an authorized recycling facility. Call West Valley Collection and Recycling customer service at (408) 283-9250 for information.

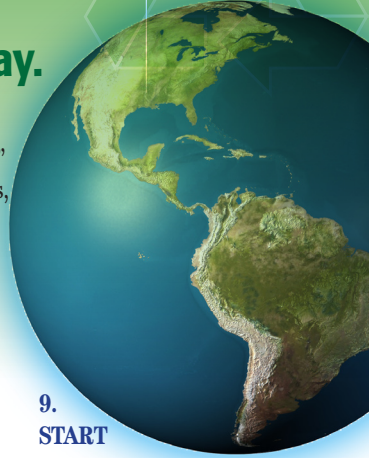
7. SWITCH IT OFF

Almost 40% of the electricity used to power your home electronics is consumed while they are in standby mode.

Hook up your home computer system and accessories to a power strip that can be switched off each night.

8. PLANT A TREE

A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Shade provided by trees can reduce your air conditioning bill by 10 to 15%. Pretty cool.



9. START A COMPOST PILE

Yard trimmings and food residuals account for 23% of the U.S. waste stream. Natural composting began with the first plants on earth and has been going on ever since. As vegetation falls to the ground, it decays, providing nutrients needed for plants, animals, and microorganisms. It's that simple.

Go to www.reducewaste.org to find the 2008 Home Composting Workshop Schedule.

10. MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY

Check out the links page at www.westvalleyrecycles.com for events, drop-off sites, how-to workshops and environmental happenings all year round.

Clean Green



Spring. Let in the fresh air. Quick! Because the levels of pollutants indoors can be up to 100 times higher than outdoors, according to the U.S. EPA. Indoor air pollution is due in large part to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that evaporate from cleaning products that can trigger health problems like allergies and asthma.

Try these simple ingredients you might already have around the house for earth

friendly cleaning—like baking soda, vinegar, lemon juice, hydrogen peroxide and borax. They're powerful, safe, and less expensive than chemical alternatives.

- For glass, use a mixture of half white vinegar and half water.
- Baking soda and cornstarch make good carpet deodorizers.
- Clean mildew and mold with a mixture of lemon juice

or white vinegar and salt.

- A paste of baking soda, salt, and hot water makes a great oven cleaner.
- Instead of using a store-bought drain cleaner, which likely contains lye, hydrochloric acid and sulfuric acid, try pouring a quarter cup of baking soda down the clogged drain, followed by a half cup of vinegar. Close the drain tightly until fizzing stops, then flush with boiling water.

BILL PAY THE EASY WAY

West Valley Collection & Recycling has made it easier than ever to pay your bill. Choose the method that works best for you.

Mail it. Make your check payable to West Valley Collection & Recycling. Be sure to include the payment stub to get credit for your payment right away. Use the pre-addressed envelope included with your bill.

Drop it off. We accept payments at our office Monday through Friday from 8 AM – 4:30 PM

Deliver checks to:
West Valley
Collection & Recycling
1333 Old Oakland Road,
San Jose, CA 95112

Pay / View Your Bill Online. Visit our new online payment system at www.wasteconnections.com; click on "Online Bill-Pay" and follow a few simple instructions. You must have your current invoice and credit card or debit card information available.

Home banking customers continue to use the remit address:

West Valley
Collection & Recycling
Dept. 1433
Los Angeles, CA 90084-1433

You must have your current invoice available.

Have questions about your recycling service?



Ask Randy

Q: I recycle regularly, but does it really make a difference?

A: Recycling has a huge impact on our environment! Consider the aluminum can—what most people recycle most. More aluminum goes into beverage cans than any other product and if it is thrown away it will still be a can 500 years from now. Yet a recycled aluminum can will be back on the shelf as a new can in as little as 60 days. Now consider this: Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours—or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline. Keep on recycling!

Spring Cleaning: A Place for Everything.

It's spring. Birds are singing, flowers are blooming and houses are filled to the brim with clutter—the aftermath of a long, cold, winter. From basements to bedrooms to backyards, everything could use a good spring-cleaning. Here are some ideas to make the job easy and environmentally friendly. First, organize what is not trash into labeled piles: sell, donate, recycle. Next, get to work:

- Have a garage sale or even better, organize a neighborhood garage sale.
- Donate your gently used clothing, books, furniture and working appliances to a local thrift store benefiting charity. Some organizations provide pick-up service, and all of them should provide you with a donation receipt to use as a write off on your income taxes.
- Recycle items that can't be reused.
- Request a bulky item pick-up. WVC&R will remove items placed at your curb for a small fee. Just call customer service at **(408) 283-9250** and we will pick up these items on your next collection day.

- Drop off your e-waste. The televisions, computer stuff, and vintage VCRs that didn't get picked up at the big garage sale can be dropped off at our facility. Check out westvalleyrecycles.com or call **(408) 283-9250** for a list of acceptable items, hours of operation and directions.

- Batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, non-empty aerosol cans and paints do not belong in our land-fill. Check out westvalleyrecycles.com e-waste and universal drop off for more information.



IMPORTANT TO NOTE:



1333 Oakland Road
San Jose CA 95112-9894

(408) 283-9250

www.westvalleyrecycles.com
customerservice@westvalleyrecycles.com

E-Waste Drop Off Event

E-Waste Drop Off Events will be taking place in West Valley cities soon. Please go to www.westvalleyrecycles.com to find the event in your community. Drop off E-waste such as computers, computer monitors, hard drives, TV's and VCR's absolutely FREE.

Clean Green Waste

Keep your yard trimmings "Green" and your recyclables clean by keeping all garbage out of your green waste and recycling cart. Garbage contaminates recyclable materials.