



## Celebrate Earth Day in April and All Year Long

Every year on Earth Day, people across the globe come together to celebrate the environment and renew their commitment to its protection. However, living in an environmentally responsible way does not have to be limited to April 22nd. There are many activities you can do at home to improve the health of our creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean.

Urban runoff is the excess water from activities such as outdoor cleaning, irrigation, or car washing. Runoff carries litter, lawn clippings, motor oil, pet waste, and other pollutants into the storm drain. Unlike water that enters the sewer (from sinks and toilets), water that enters the storm drain is not treated before entering our waterways. If you are not careful, everyday household activities such as watering your lawn can produce runoff that leads to water pollution. Make a pledge this Earth Day to

reduce the quantity and improve the quality of the runoff from your property by:

- Sweeping up debris (not washing it down with a hose) and properly disposing of it in the trash.
- Applying cat litter or other dry absorbent material to outdoor spills and disposing of it in the trash.
- Watering your lawn and garden by hand to control the amount of water you use or setting your irrigation systems to reflect seasonal water needs. Keep in mind that if water flows from your yard onto the driveway or sidewalk, your system is overwatering.
- Covering trash cans securely and closing lids on trash, recycling, and green waste carts.
- Taking hazardous waste such as paint, batteries, some household cleaners and e-waste to a household hazardous waste collection center (HHWCC).
- Storing toxic products in closed, labeled containers inside or under a cover.
- Picking up after your pet and placing the waste in the trash.
- Following directions for the application and disposal of pesticides and fertilizers. Always measure and never just estimate the amounts. If the directions require water, always control the water amount and never overwater.

To learn more about protecting our environment, participate in an Earth Day celebration. There are several events scheduled in Orange County. For more information, visit [www.ocwatersheds.com](http://www.ocwatersheds.com).

Celebrate Earth Day all year long by doing your part! Remember, the ocean begins at your front door. To learn about what you can do to prevent urban runoff pollution or to report a water pollution problem, contact the Orange County Stormwater Program at 1-877-89-SPILL or visit [www.ocwatersheds.com](http://www.ocwatersheds.com).

A Quarterly Newsletter of



The City of Irvine

(949) 724-7669



Waste Management  
of Orange County

(949) 642-1191

Spring 2011

### Bommer Canyon Trailhead Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony & Hike with Mayor and City Council

Join the Mayor  
and City Council  
on Saturday,  
April 16, at 8:30  
a.m. for the  
opening of the



Bommer Canyon trailhead, which includes a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by an Earth Day hike. The Bommer Canyon Trailhead provides a key access point and connection between Irvine's beautiful inland habitat and the coasts of Newport Beach and Laguna Beach. Please visit the City's website, [www.cityofirvine.org](http://www.cityofirvine.org), for more details about the event.

# Compost Happens!

Organic materials—from wood chips to leaves to grass clippings—naturally break down, slowly turning back into a soil-like material. However, you don't have to wait for nature to take its course. You can get involved! Once you learn how to mix organic materials, you'll be able to make and harvest your own nutrient-rich compost on a regular basis. Don't sit on the sidelines waiting for compost to happen—make it happen! Join us for Composting 101, presented by the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Orange County. We'll cover two topics:

- **Composting Basics:** Just how does compost happen? Nature, as it recycles through decomposition, provides us with garden gold. With the right balance of "green" and "brown" garden waste, plus air and water, you can create your own batch of organic gold! In this part of the class, we will take a look at the traditional method of composting, as well as the University of California rapid method. Check out some nifty compost bins and do a little troubleshooting. Then it's all yours—wonderful black gold for your gardening pleasure.
- **Vermiculture (Vermicomposting or Worm Composting):** Yes, worms CAN eat your green, kitchen waste. In this part of the class, you will learn how to make that happen! Find out what equipment and supplies you'll need to assemble a worm bin, including bedding, water, worms, and appropriate food scraps. You will also learn how to set up the vermiculture system, maintain proper temperatures, harvest and do a little troubleshooting.



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Residents must register for the Composting 101 class. You can register at the City's website, [www.cityofirvine.org/cityhall/cs/classreg/default.asp](http://www.cityofirvine.org/cityhall/cs/classreg/default.asp), or by calling 949-724-6610. The class will be held on Thursday, March 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Conference and Training Center (CTC) at City Hall.

Learn more about composting by watching the "how-to" video at the City's website, [www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms](http://www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms).

## Free workshop available



The Irvine Ranch Water District periodically holds free residential landscape workshops for the public to promote water efficiency. Some of the workshop topics include landscape design basics and watering for plant health while lowering water bills. For more information on the workshops, visit IRWD's website at [www.irwd.com/FreePrograms/workshops.php](http://www.irwd.com/FreePrograms/workshops.php).

## Green waste collection

Most residents with curbside collection service are provided a green waste cart for collection of yard debris, such as grass clippings, prunings, small branches, and leaves. If you have questions about what goes into the green waste cart, call Waste Management Customer Service at 949-642-1191.



### Sign Up for the Environmental Programs Facebook Page

Want to learn how to turn an old umbrella into a Halloween costume or how to reuse plastic bottles? Well, follow the City of Irvine's exciting Environmental Programs Facebook Page to get tips on how to do these neat "green" crafts and much more.

Simply log into your Facebook account. Then search for "Irvine Environmental Programs" and "Like" us!

### Used Oil Filter Exchange Event

In partnership with Waste Management of Orange County, Irvine residents are encouraged to deliver



their drained used oil filters for recycling to Kragen's on Saturday, April 30, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Residents who bring in at least one used filter will receive a new oil filter for free! Please drain your filter for at least 24 hours prior to the event. Kragen's is located at 15315 Culver Drive, Suite 170 in Irvine. For more information, please visit [www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms](http://www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms), or call 949-724-7522.

# Are you recycling all you can?

Unfortunately, our trash haulers are still finding recyclables when they empty trash carts and dumpsters. Recycling reduces our dependence on landfills, conserves natural resources, provides raw materials for manufacturing, reduces pollution, saves energy, and creates jobs. Those are some very good reasons to keep your recyclables out of the trash!

Please be sure that your recyclables go into the recycling cart with the gray lid, if you have curbside service, or into the gray dumpster, if you recycle at a multi-family complex.

Wherever you recycle, be sure that all of these materials are going into the recycling and staying out of the trash:

- Newspapers and magazines
- Mixed paper (printer, white, colored, all types accepted)
- Telephone books and directories
- Bulk/junk mail, envelopes, and catalogs
- File folders
- Cardboard boxes (Please flatten.)
- Softbound (paperback) books
- Hardbound books (inside paper only, no cover)
- Paperboard, such as cereal boxes, tissue boxes, shoe boxes, egg cartons, beverage boxes, and dry food boxes
- Frozen dinner boxes and other frozen food boxes
- Empty paper towel and toilet tissue rolls
- Shredded paper (Bag in clear plastic or paper bag before putting into cart.)
- Pizza boxes (with NO food residue)
- Paper towels (clean and dry)
- Plastic beverage containers, such as soda, water, and juice bottles
- Plastic containers (#1-7), such as laundry detergent, ketchup, mustard, and hair product bottles (NO foam products)
- Plastic bags—grocery, dry cleaning, newspaper, and other film bags (Bundle inside one plastic bag, tie bag shut, and place in the cart.)
- Plastic plates, cups, and utensils (#1-7)
- Plastic buckets (#1-7)
- Plastic tubs (#1-7)
- Plastic toys (#1-7)
- Aluminum cans
- Tin cans, such as soup, tuna, pet food, vegetable juice, and coffee cans
- Empty aerosol cans (completely empty)
- Pie tins
- Paint cans (empty and completely dried out)
- Metal hangers
- Glass food jars that held sauce, mayo, pickles, etc. (no residue)
- Beverage glass bottles, such as wine, beer, liquor, and juice bottles

As you can see from reviewing this list, most of what you use and discard can be recycled! When in doubt, double-check to see whether a material is recyclable before you throw it out!

If you have questions, refer to the City's Environmental Programs website, [www.cityofirvine.us](http://www.cityofirvine.us), or call the Irvine Recycles Hotline at 949-724-7669.

## RECYCLING



## Congratulations to Irvine's WRAP Winners!

Annually, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) recognizes businesses and nonprofits for outstanding waste reduction efforts through the Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP). In 2010, several Irvine companies were recognized as WRAP winners. We would like to thank and congratulate these Irvine businesses:

Alere  
Allergan, Inc.  
Conestoga-Rovers & Associates  
Edwards Lifesciences LLC  
Hyatt Regency Irvine  
NGK Spark Plugs (U.S.A.), Inc.  
Orthodyne Electronics  
RICOH Electronics, Inc.  
Safeway Inc.  
Southern California Edison  
Waste Management of Orange County

# Hey, don't throw that in the trash!

Hazardous and electronic wastes don't belong in recycling bins or trash cans. These items require special handling during the disposal and recycling process. When they are disposed improperly, chemicals released can cause air and water pollution, putting humans and animals at risk. Irvine residents can drop off household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronic waste (E-Waste) at any one of the four County of Orange permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers (HHWCC). The nearest HHWCC for Irvine residents is located at 6411 Oak Canyon, which is off of Sand Canyon between the 5 and 405 freeways (use the same driveway as Bark Park). The HHWCC is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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HHW includes oil-based and enamel paints, pesticides, solvents, cleansers, oils, medical sharps in approved containers (see below), mercury thermometers and thermostats, fluorescent tubes and CFL light bulbs, and batteries. E-Waste includes televisions, computer monitors, CPUs, keyboards, printers, cellular phones, and similar items.

Please follow these guidelines when dropping off HHW and E-Waste:

- There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds per vehicle per visit.
- Do not mix materials, and keep chemicals in their original, labeled containers.
- Put items into a sturdy box in your car trunk or as far away from passengers as possible.
- No explosives, ammunition, or radioactive materials will be accepted.
- No materials will be accepted from businesses, churches, schools, nonprofit organizations, or government agencies.

While you are at the HHWCC, visit the Material Exchange Program where you can choose up to five items from a selection of partially used containers of household, yard, and car-care products to take home FREE!

For more information, call the county's hotline at 714-834-6752 or visit their website at [www.oilandfills.com](http://www.oilandfills.com).

## Be "sharps" smart



If you use "sharps," such as syringes and lancets, for in-home medical care, remember that the used sharps cannot be placed in your trash. There are two ways to properly dispose of medical sharps:

- Place sharps into an approved container (available from local pharmacies) and drop off the full, sealed container at the County of Orange HHWCC during regular hours.
- Take advantage of the Sharps-By-Mail program offered by Waste Management in partnership with the City of Irvine. You simply pick up a kit that includes a specially designed sharps container and a postage-prepaid shipping box. Once the container is full, you follow the instructions and mail it to a certified medical waste facility, where it is destroyed. Mail-back kits are available at the locations listed in the box below. The first kit is FREE and two additional kits are available with a \$5 co-pay.

Pick up a Sharps-By-Mail kit at one of these pharmacy locations: CVS (15333 Culver Blvd., Suite 300; 6775 Quail Hill Pkwy.; 5385 Alton Pkwy.; or 14330 Culver Dr.); Rite Aid (3875 Alton Pkwy. or 18112 Culver Dr.); or Walgreens (6316 Irvine Blvd. or 5695 Alton Pkwy.).



## Bulky Waste Pickup Available

Irvine single-family residents with curbside service have on-going bulky item collection available year-round. Residents are entitled to two free pickups each year, with up to four large items accepted per pickup. While this service is offered at no charge, it is a special service and residents must call to schedule an appointment. Bulky items include large hard-to-handle items, such as furniture, mattresses, and appliances. Electronic waste is also included in the bulky item program.

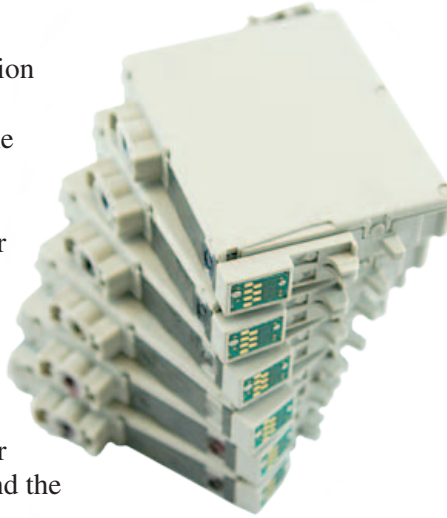
For more information about the program or to schedule a bulky item pickup, call Waste Management's Customer Service Center at 949-642-1191.

Residents who live in apartments or other multi-family complexes should inquire with their property manager about bulky item service.

# Fit to print

Last year, Americans spent about \$21 billion on printer cartridges. When these toner and inkjet cartridges are replaced, many go into the trash, sending usable toner and ink, as well as recyclable plastics and metals, with them. In addition, the equivalent of 3½ quarts of oil per laser toner cartridge and 2½ ounces of oil per inkjet cartridge are being wasted.

However, laser toner and inkjet cartridges don't need to go in the trash. They are reusable and recyclable. Most cartridges can be reused as many as 20 to 30 times. After that, the remaining toner or ink, the plastic, and the precious metals can be recycled.



Here are some tips for reusing and recycling cartridges:

- If your printer allows you to continue printing after you receive the low-ink warning, do so. Often you will get a low-ink warning with as much as 40% of the ink or toner remaining. Instead of immediately changing the cartridge, wait until the printed images get lighter or fainter.
- Purchase do-it-yourself kits for refilling inkjet cartridges or recharging laser toner cartridges.
- Take your cartridges to a business that refills or recharges them and returns them to you for reuse.
- When buying replacement cartridges, choose remanufactured cartridges.
- Take advantage of drop-off recycling programs. Check with your local office supply store about available drop-off or take-back programs. Some suppliers offer a rebate or credit for inkjet cartridges. Locally, FedEx Office stores, Office Depot, Staples, and Best Buy offer recycling programs.
- Donate used cartridges to a good cause. Many local schools accept inkjet cartridges as a fundraiser. Ask about this program at your children's or a nearby school. For more information about fundraising programs, visit Cartridges for Kids ([www.cartridgesforkids.com](http://www.cartridgesforkids.com)), Recycle for Breast Cancer ([www.recycleforbreastcancer.org/](http://www.recycleforbreastcancer.org/)), or Enviro Solutions ([www.envirosolutionsllc.com](http://www.envirosolutionsllc.com)).
- Use a mail-back program. Many manufacturers offer a mail-in recycling program. Waste Management also offers mail-back recycling for toner and inkjet cartridges. For details, visit [www.wmlamptracker.com/v2/product\\_inkjet\\_toner\\_start.cfm](http://www.wmlamptracker.com/v2/product_inkjet_toner_start.cfm).

## Starbucks sets goal for cups



Starbucks Coffee Company has set an ambitious goal for its cups. By 2015, Starbucks wants 100% of its cups to be either reusable or recyclable. That goal has two parts.

First, the company plans to continue to encourage customers to choose and carry reusable mugs and cups. By 2015, they hope to be serving 25% of all drinks in customers' reusable cups.

Second, following a 2009 "Cup Summit," the company has been working with paper manufacturers to test the recyclability of its paper carry-out cups. In some areas, manufacturers are experimenting with cup-to-cup recycling, and, in others, old cups are being turned into new napkins and similar products. Test results have been promising. As the project continues, Starbucks hopes to offer more in-store recycling bins for used paper cups.

Currently, Starbucks hot beverage paper cups are 10% post-consumer recycled paper, and the cup sleeves are recycled cardboard. Starbucks operates over 15,000 stores.



**If you regularly purchase carry-out coffee or other drinks, carry your own reusable mug or cup. You'll often save a few cents on your purchase, and you'll save a paper or plastic cup each time!**

# Take it slow

Earth Day is a good time to think about how you are living on the earth and with its inhabitants, human and otherwise. It's a good time to slow down and enjoy the natural world. It's a good time to evaluate your daily actions.



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Here are some things that you might do to slow down as you celebrate Earth Day:

- Create a “no carry-out food” day each week and make a meal together as a family. You’ll reduce your packaging waste and have time to laugh and talk.
- Plan your errands or your commute so that you aren’t rushing from place to place. If you will be stopping to shop, think about what you need and make a list. You’ll reduce unnecessary purchases, which often become waste within days, weeks, or months.
- Listen to what others have to say. Rather than spending your “listening” time planning what you will say next or interrupting, really listen. You might learn something—from a great reuse idea to a current event—and you will be building a relationship.
- Shop in your own closets and cupboards. We often head to the store to purchase storage containers or recipe ingredients because we don’t know or can’t find what we already have. If you clean out closets, drawers, and cupboards, you may find a supply of usable items, saving money and reducing waste.
- Visit the library. Libraries are a reuser’s paradise. Not only can you check out books, DVDs, and more, but you can also meet your neighbors.
- Spend time in nature. Whether it is a short walk, a long bike ride, or a seat on the porch, take time to relax and breathe the fresh air. You might be inspired to start a garden, plant flowers, or begin composting.
- Listen to the sounds of children around you. Think about the world that we will be leaving them. Find a way to make a positive difference in your neighborhood or community.

## Tube-free toilet paper

Kimberly-Clark, maker of Scott brand paper products, is testing a tube-free toilet paper in a limited market area. The tube-free rolls fit on a standard spindle.

In the U.S., households use an estimated 17 billion toilet paper rolls per year. Probably less than one-quarter of those paperboard tubes are currently being recycled when the rolls are empty.

Unfortunately, the Scott Naturals tube-free tissue for the test market does not contain recycled-content paper. Most of the products in the Scott Naturals line are 40% recycled content. If the tubeless toilet paper hits a wider market, Kimberly-Clark plans to include more recycled content.



**Recycled-content paper makes up less than 2% of the toilet tissue used each year. Recycled-content tissue products, including toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissues, are readily available at grocers, pharmacies, and national retail chains. Not only does recycled-content tissue reduce the demand on forests and tree farms, but it also provides an essential market for our recyclable mixed paper. Next time you shop, give recycled-content tissue a try.**

# One Change

➤ If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? We have a suggestion! Keep your existing cell phone longer and then recycle it when you replace it.

Worldwide, there are 5 billion cell phones in use, about 1 billion of which are “smartphones,” which provide calling, texting, wireless Internet, and other services. In the U.S., there are about 270 million cell phones in use. Each year, about 130 million cell phones are discarded nationwide. Unfortunately, only about 10% of those cell phones are recycled.

Many consumers use their cell phones for only about 18 months. In most cases, these 18-month-old phones are still in good working order. A study published in the *International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment* reported that keeping a phone in use for four

years could reduce the environmental impact of that phone by 40%, conserving natural resources, saving energy, and reducing pollution.

Recycled cell phones are either refurbished or remanufactured. Refurbished phones are cleaned, checked, and repaired, if needed, and then used in the U.S. or in countries with rapidly growing demand for cell phones, such as Brazil, Russia, India, China, and several nations in Africa. Unusable cell phones are disassembled and the parts are recycled into new phones or other electronics. One ton of mobile phones (about 6,000 phones) contains about \$15,000

in precious metals, which are used in the manufacture of new phones.

Next time you upgrade, ask your wireless provider about take-back programs. Some wireless providers will even offer you a discount on your new phone based on the trade-in value of your old phone. Many organizations accept cell phones to help raise funds for youth, domestic violence prevention and assistance, and other programs. You can also recycle phones with other electronics. If you aren't sure how or where, visit [www.cityofirvine.us](http://www.cityofirvine.us) or call 949-724-7669.

Remember to cancel your wireless service on any phone that you will no longer be using and to remove personal data before recycling the phone.



## EARTH DAY CONSIDERED

My principles are simple: protect the earth, serve the people, and explore the universe.

Rusty Schweickart, 1935-  
American Astronaut

This image, I think, was maybe the most reproduced image in American history. We suddenly realized that the earth was a very small thing. Much as if you live on an island, you are much more acutely aware of the limitations of your resources and on your ability to pollute. That photograph of the Earth in this vast sea of space did pretty much the same thing for the whole planet.

Denis Hayes, 1944-  
Coordinator of the first Earth Day

The photographs of the earth from space were a different kind of mirror than we had ever looked in before. It flips you from the world that we are in, to a planet that we are on.

Stewart Brand, 1938-  
Editor of *Whole Earth Catalog*

# We've come a long way

As human beings, we have a tendency to get used to the way things are and believe that they have always been this way. For instance, what year did you get a cell phone or email? Hard to remember, isn't it! Taking the time every now and then to remember the past and note the changes that have occurred helps us understand our own actions and make better plans for the future.

Think about Earth Day. For some of you, the time before the first Earth Day in 1970 is your own personal "pre-history," a vague time before you were born. For others, your memories of the era may or may not be filled with the environmental problems that led to a national "teach-in" for the environment.

Take some time this spring to explore the origins of Earth Day. Learn more about the pollution in our air, water, and soil that were part of everyday life prior to 1970. In the introduction to the children's book *Earth Day* by Linda Lowery, former Senator and Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson wrote:

"Who wants to breathe dirty air or swim in a polluted lake? I don't, and I'm sure you don't either. When I was a senator, I noticed that our country's air, water, and soil were getting polluted. Plants and animals were dying. People around the United States were upset about this. They wanted to change things. But our country's leaders were not listening. They were not making laws to protect the environment."

The energy of 20 million people speaking up on the first Earth Day changed that. Discover what the first Earth Day meant and the actions, large and small, that followed it. We have come a long way, but we certainly aren't "done." We continue to find and face new challenges. We can best plan for our future by reflecting on our past.

These websites explore the history of Earth Day and the impact that it has had:



*Earth Days: The Seeds of a Revolution*  
[www.earthdaysmovie.com](http://www.earthdaysmovie.com)



*Gaylord Nelson and Earth Day: The Making of the Modern Environmental Movement*  
[www.nelsonearthday.net/](http://www.nelsonearthday.net/)



*Earth Day: The History of a Movement*  
[www.earthday.org/earth-day-history-movement](http://www.earthday.org/earth-day-history-movement)



Crowds gather by a George Washington statue in Union Square for an Earth Day celebration in New York City, April 22, 1970.

(Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

*We want your suggestions, questions and comments!*

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The views and statements of environmental organizations referenced in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the City of Irvine.



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