

A Quarterly Newsletter of



The City of Irvine
(949) 724-7669

Waste Management of Orange County
(949) 642-1191



Spring 2010



Celebrate Earth Day 2010 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, irriga-

tion, 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

over-watering.

- Covering trash cans securely.
- 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 over-water.

To learn more about protecting our environment, participate in an Earth Day celebration. There are several events scheduled



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in Orange County. For more information, visit 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 1-877-89SPILL or visit www.ocwatersheds.com.



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Free Composting Class We need your help!

Due to the popularity of the previous composting classes held this year, the City of Irvine and the Fullerton Arboretum are providing another free composting class to Irvine residents. The class teaches the eco-friendly gardening practice of creating compost from table scraps and yard waste from your home. The class instructors are award-winning experts: Dr. Bill Roley, President of Applied Ecological Systems, and Patrick McNelly, Principal Staff Analyst for the Orange County Sanitation District. They are both nationally recognized for their outstanding grassroots efforts to promote composting.

The class will be held at the Fullerton Arboretum bleachers from 10-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 5. In order to attend the class, residents **must** preregister by June 2 with the Fullerton Arboretum by calling 657-278-3407. The Fullerton Arboretum is located at 1900 Associated Road (west of the 57 freeway, use the Yorba Linda Boulevard exit).

Upon completion of the class, each participating resident will receive a \$25 voucher toward the purchase of a new Earth Bin composter, reducing the cost of the bin to \$27.00, while supplies last. The compost bin vouchers will only be redeemable at Fullerton Ace Hardware, which is located at 117 W. Commonwealth Avenue in Fullerton.

For more information, please contact Irvine Recycles Hotline at 949-724-7669.

Help! Some recyclables are still finding their way into the trash! Instead of putting recyclables into the trash and sending them to the landfill, where they won't be reused or recovered, put them into a recycling bin! If you have curbside service, recyclables go into the green cart with the gray lid. If you live in a multi-family complex, look for the gray dumpster for recyclables.

The list of materials that can be recycled is long! So, please be sure that you recycle all of these items:

- 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

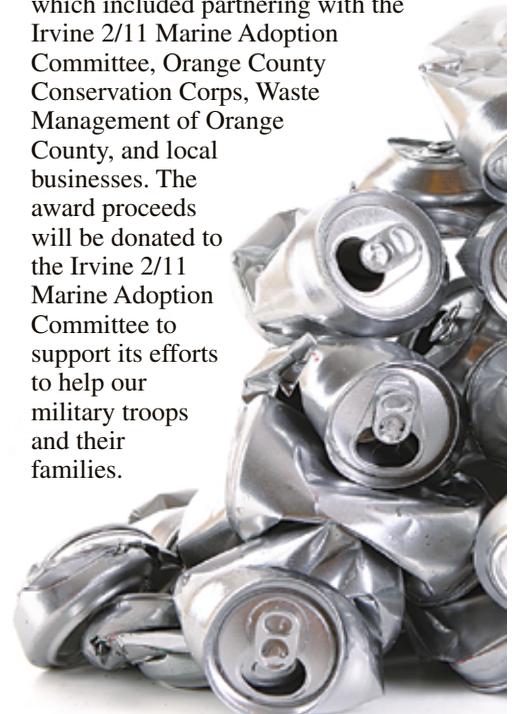


- Shredded paper (bag in clear plastic or paper bag before putting into cart)
- Pizza boxes (with NO food residue)
- Paper towels (must be clean and dry)
- Plastic beverage containers, such as soda, water, and juice bottles
- Plastic containers (#1-#7), such as laundry detergent, ketchup, mustard, and hair product bottles
- Plastic bags – grocery, dry cleaning, newspaper, and other film bags (bundle inside one plastic bag, tie bag shut, and place in the cart)
- Plastic buckets (#1-7)
- Plastic tubs (#1-7)
- Plastic toys (#1-7)
- Aluminum cans
- Tin cans, such as soup, tuna, vegetable juice, and coffee cans
- Empty aerosol cans (must be completely empty)
- Pie tins
- Paint cans (must be 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

For more information, visit www.cityofirvine.us or call the Irvine Recycles Hotline at 949-724-7669.

Irvine Wins Third Cans for Cash Award!

Congratulations, Irvine! In January, the U.S. Conference of Mayors announced that the City of Irvine won an award in the 2009 Cans for Cash Recycling Challenge for the third year in a row. Irvine was awarded \$5,000 in the "Most Innovative Ideas" category. The City was recognized for its comprehensive promotional campaign, which included partnering with the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee, Orange County Conservation Corps, Waste Management of Orange County, and local businesses. The award proceeds will be donated to the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee to support its efforts to help our military troops and their families.



Earth Day: A History

You'll hear a lot about Earth Day over the next month because 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day. On April 22, 1970, about 20 million Americans gathered in their neighborhoods, hometowns, state capitols, and Washington, D.C. Events ranged from litter cleanups and tree plantings to demonstrations and "teach-ins" to increase environmental awareness and knowledge.

That first Earth Day was the culmination of efforts begun a century earlier and inspired by naturalists, such as Henry David Thoreau and John Muir. Early in the 20th century, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service were founded, devoting themselves to protection of our public lands and natural heritage resources. In the 1920s, Marjory Stoneman Douglas began her work to save the Florida Everglades. The storms of the 1930s that caused the Dust Bowl in the Great Plains led to conservation efforts on farm and ranch lands. In 1948, the first piece of legislation that regulated water quality, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, was passed by Congress. In 1953, Keep America Beautiful was founded, largely to address the eyesore and hazards of roadside litter. In 1962, Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, sounded the alarm about the effects of pesticides on wildlife, as well as humans.

In 1963, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson accompanied President John F. Kennedy on a speaking tour focused on environmental concerns. After President Kennedy's death, Nelson continued to work on the issue, but the next six years were consumed by other priorities.

Then, in 1969, three things occurred that got the nation's attention. In early January, Americans got their first glimpse of the earth as seen from space in photos



Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, exposed the risks associated with certain pesticides, some of which were banned less than a decade later.

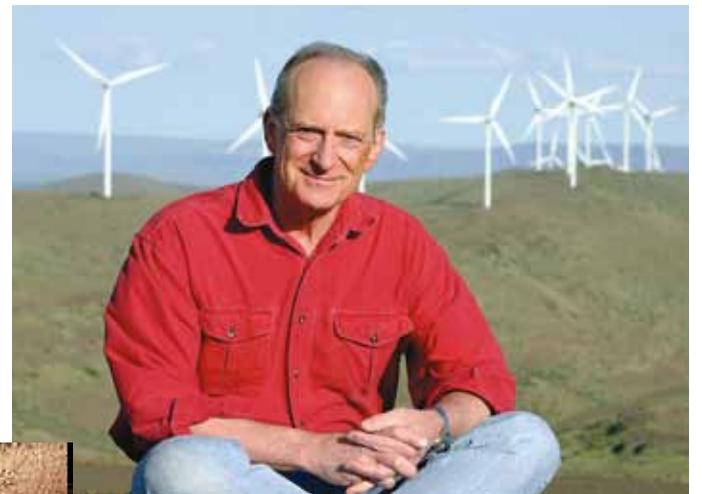
(Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

taken by the Apollo space crew. In late January, an oil spill fouled the California coast near Santa Barbara. In June, a chemical fire on Cleveland's Cuyahoga River received national media coverage. In 1969, the "enough is enough" moment occurred and Americans mobilized.

Senator Nelson realized that the time was right to put the environment at the top of the national agenda. He enlisted the help of graduate student Denis Hayes and planning got under way. When Earth Day rolled around, even the organizers did not anticipate how large the crowds would be or how passionate the voices. Within a year, President Richard Nixon had established the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Congress had passed the Clean Air Act, and that was only the beginning.

The work begun by Earth Day continued in the years that followed. In 1990, on the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, more than 200 million people in over 140 countries took part. In recent years, those numbers have continued to grow, with more than a billion people now taking part in annual celebrations, activities, and initiatives.

The motto of Earth Day is "Make Every Day Earth Day." By continuing our efforts to improve the environment in big and small ways, we are making every day and every year one for the earth and all of its inhabitants.



Denis Hayes was a graduate student when he agreed to work with Senator Gaylord Nelson to organize the first Earth Day. (Photo Courtesy of Zeitgeist Films)



This hillside dump was photographed in 1972 as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Documerica" project, which was intended to capture images of environmental problems. (Photo by Gene Daniels, courtesy of U.S. EPA)

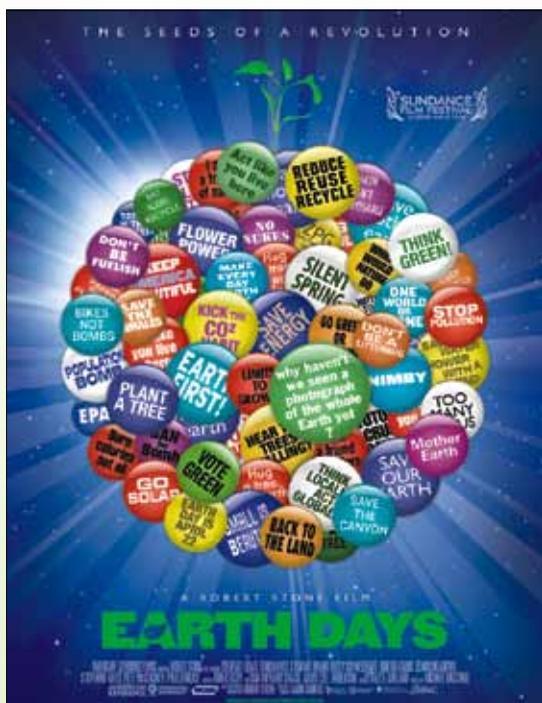
Read more about it!

Earth Day
www.earthday.net

Apollo 8's "Earthrise" Photo
www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/image_feature_102.html

Cuyahoga River Fire
www.cleveland.com/science/index.ssf/2009/06/cuyahoga_river_fire_40_years_a.html

Santa Barbara Oil Spill
www.dailynexus.com/article.php?a=16459



Earth Days

Last year, a documentary, "Earth Days: The Seeds of a Revolution," opened at the Sundance Film Festival. The film traces the beginnings of the modern environmental movement through the first Earth Day and the actions that followed. The documentary will air on "American Experience" on PBS on April 19 and will be available on DVD after that.

To learn more, visit www.earthdaysmovie.com or www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/earthdays/.

FAST FACTS

Cook, clean, deodorize

What gives lift to your homemade cookies, creates a soothing paste for a sunburn, deodorizes your fridge, and cleans your bathroom? Baking soda, of course! Baking soda, or sodium bicarbonate, is a leavening agent used in baking, but it is also so much more.

Baking soda mixed with dish soap makes a versatile cleaning scrub. Mixed with white vinegar, baking soda can be used as an all-purpose cleaner. Baking soda can help deodorize trash cans, garbage disposals, laundry, gym bags, tennis shoes, cat litter boxes, hampers, and other smelly items. A paste made from baking soda and a small amount of water can soothe skin irritations caused by sunburn or insect bites.

For more baking soda solutions, go online and search for "baking soda solutions" or check out *Baking Soda Bonanza* by Peter A. Ciullo or *Green Up Your Cleanup* by Jill Potvin Schoff.



Green @ Home

Looking for ways to "green" your home? Whether you want to reduce your energy use, conserve water, choose environmentally friendly materials and products, reduce your waste, or protect your health, you'll find suggestions at www.epa.gov/greenhomes. Find specific ideas for each area of your home with the room by room feature.

Spring reading, naturally

As the temperatures warm, you may be looking forward to more time outdoors. Your plan may be to garden, bike or walk, or simply sit and enjoy the spring breezes and sunshine. Consider a trip to the library (or used bookstore), too. Nothing is finer than reading a good book outdoors on a warm spring day.

If you love nature, consider some classics. *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters* by Annie Dillard will have you ready to do some exploration of your own. Are you itching to travel? Pick up *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail* by Bill Bryson. As two middle-aged men set out to hike the Appalachian Trail, you'll find humor and awe. Maybe it is the desert landscape that fires your imagination. Look for *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey or *The Land of Little Rain* by Mary Austin. More

of a beach person? Track down a copy of *The Outermost House: A Year of Life on the Great Beach of Cape Cod* by Henry Beston. You might also look for works by John Muir, John McPhee, Gary Snyder, and Maxine Kumin, among others.

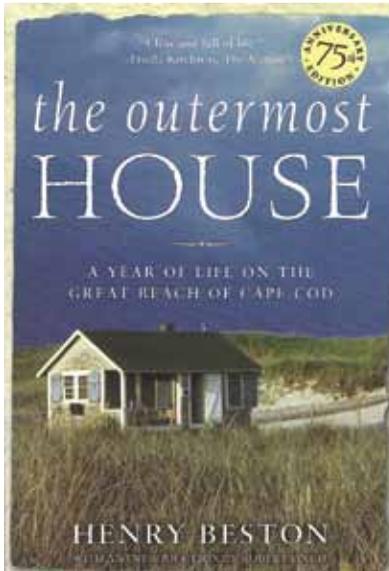
If you prefer your nature closer to the local coffee shop, look for *City Wilds: Essays and Stories About Urban Nature*, edited by Terrell F. Dixon. *City Wilds* celebrates the natural world that

is closest to home for many Americans.

Perhaps you are interested in how we form communities. A National Science Foundation study in 2007 found that as many as one quarter of Americans have no one to confide in or celebrate with. In *Population: 485 – Meeting Your Neighbors*

One Siren at a Time, Michael Perry writes of returning to his hometown and joining the volunteer fire department. One emergency call at a time, he connects with his neighbors and explores the place where he grew up with new eyes. In *Less Is More: Embracing Simplicity for a Healthy Planet, a Caring Economy, and Lasting Happiness*, edited by Cecile Andrews and Wanda Urbanska, the authors ostensibly address how to embrace a simpler lifestyle. However, their real concerns seem to be how we find and maintain more enriching relationships. The reader is challenged to ask the question, "What do I have to offer?"

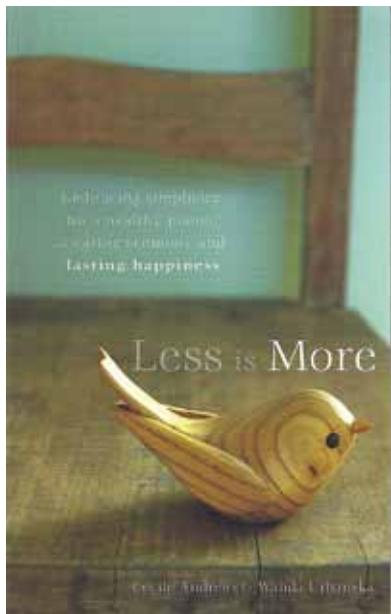
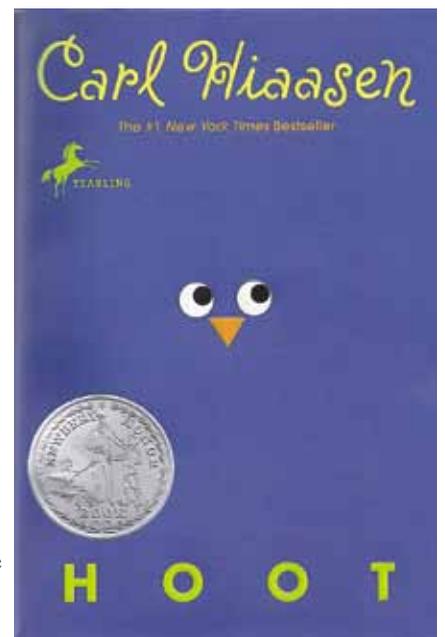
If you have children in your life, check out *Get Out! 150 Easy Ways for Kids & Grown-Ups to Get into Nature and Build a Greener Future* by Judy Molland. This book is full of ideas to get families and groups outside where they will learn about nature as they enjoy it.



Sharing books with young people builds relationships and improves their reading skills. For wonderful books about the natural world, look for Lynne Cherry's books, such as *The Armadillo from Amarillo* or *The Sea, the Storm, and the Mangrove Tangle*; *Brother Eagle, Sister Sky* by Chief Seattle, illustrated by Susan Jeffers; and *Just Us Two: Poems About Animal Dads* by Joyce Sidman. Encourage young gardeners with *The Empty Lot* by Dale H. Fife, *The Gardener* by Sarah Stewart, *A Handful of Dirt* by Raymond Bial, and Lorraine Roulston's series on Pee Wee, the worm. For the slightly older crowd, suggest a simple chapter book, such as *Judy Moody Saves the World* by Megan McDonald.

Pre-teens can be a harder group to please. Get them excited about the environment with Carl Hiaasen's eco-thrillers: *Hoot*, *Flush*, and *Scat*. In these books, youth find—and find ways to solve—environmental problems created by adults.

Obviously, there are many more great books for children, teens, and adults. Take advantage of that reuser's paradise—the local library—and enjoy good reading with the good weather!

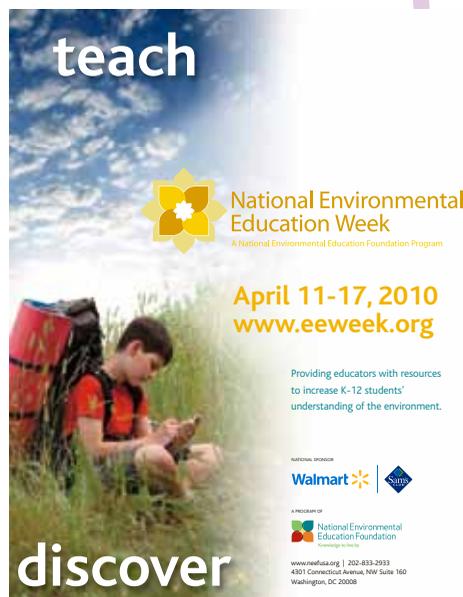


What a week!

In the week before Earth Day each year, students and teachers are invited to explore the natural world during National Environmental Education Week. Environmental education isn't just for the science classroom, but can include activities in social studies, language arts, math, art, music, and more. Environmental education gets students excited because they get involved in real-world problem solving.

There are many ways for students and teachers to take part in Environmental Education Week, beginning with incorporating environmental themes and topics into daily lessons. But the activities don't end there. Students can be encouraged to write conservation plans for home and school, audit energy and water use or trash disposal, set up a nature walk or scavenger hunt, take part in a litter cleanup, visit a local utility facility (power plant, water treatment plant, wastewater plant, recycling facility, etc.), start or expand a school recycling program, and much more. Get parent organizations and clubs into the act, as well!

Environmental Education Week 2010 is April 11-17. This year's focus will be on conserving water and energy to preserve our planet and save money. For more information, visit www.eeweek.org.



Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life.... There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter.

Rachel Carson, 1907–1964
from *The Sense of Wonder*
American biologist

One Change

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? We have a suggestion! Purchase recycled-content trash bags and trash can liners. When you are at the store to buy trash bags and can liners, read the labels and look for phrases like "made with recycled content" and "made with post-consumer recycled content."

Don't forget reuse. Plastic shopping bags can be used as liners for small wastebaskets.



WHAT'S UP?

You may be eligible to receive a **rate discount** on your trash pickup if you qualify for the following:

- **Senior Rate** – If you are 65 years or older and you are the owner of the property or responsible for the waste bill, you are eligible for this discount.
- **Variable Rate** – If you opt to use the smallest cart size (35 gallons) for trash collection, you are eligible for this discount. Remember, the less you throw away, the more you can recycle and donate for reuse.

To apply for either of these discounts, please call the Waste Management Customer Service Center at 949-642-1191, or go to www.wmorangecounty.com.



Bulky item collection is available year-round to Irvine residents who live in single-family homes and have curbside service. Residents are entitled to two free pickups each year, with up to four large items per pickup. Bulky items include large, hard-to-handle items, such as furniture, mattresses, and appliances, as well as televisions and computer monitors. While there is no charge for this service, it does require an appointment. 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.



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Residents or businesses may sign up to receive the **Irvine Environmental Programs e-Newsletter** by visiting www.cityofirvine.us. Simply click on "Sign up for e-Newsletter" in the upper right-hand corner of the home page.



Accept the **10% in 2010 Challenge!** Orange County Waste & Recycling and the Orange County Board of Supervisors recently launched a new, interactive public awareness campaign to reduce everyday waste from entering Orange County landfills. The campaign message, **Waste Free OC. Save Room for Tomorrow**, empowers Orange County residents, businesses, and organizations to change their behavior to better the environment by reducing their waste, reusing things that would typically end up in a landfill, and recycling. They are challenging all of us to reduce our waste by 10% in 2010. Visit the new website, www.WasteFreeOC.com, for more information on living a waste-free lifestyle.

Handling hazardous materials the right way

Hazardous waste doesn't belong in recycling bins or trash cans. Hazardous waste, including household, garden, and automotive chemicals, must be disposed at special facilities. When they are disposed improperly, chemicals can cause air and water pollution, putting humans and animals at risk.

To make it easy for families to handle hazardous materials the right way, the County of Orange operates permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers (HHWCC). The nearest location for Irvine residents is the Irvine Regional HHWCC at 6411 Oak Canyon, which is off of Sand Canyon between the 5 and 405 freeways (use the same driveway as Bark Park). The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (closed holidays and rainy days).

You can drop off all of these items:

- Automotive fluids, including motor oil



and antifreeze

- Fluorescent tubes, CFL bulbs, and compact fluorescent lamps
- Household and rechargeable batteries (please tape over ends, especially on lithium ion batteries)
- Lawn and garden chemicals, such as fertilizer, pesticides, and insecticides
- Household cleaners, such as oven cleaner, furniture polish, and tub and tile cleaners
- Hobby and home improvement products, such as paints, glues, photographic chemicals, and pool chemicals
- Fuels, including gasoline and kerosene
- Personal care products, such as fingernail polish and fingernail polish remover

There is no charge to drop off these items. Please keep them in their original, labeled containers, if possible. Remember not to mix chemicals together. When loading these items into your car or van, place them into a cardboard box in the trunk or in the very back, as far away from passengers as possible.

There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous chemicals per visit.

There is a "swap" center at the HHWCC where you can pick up partially full containers of cleaners, lawn and garden products, paints and stains, automotive fluids, and more at no charge!

For more information, call the County's hotline at 714-834-6752, or visit their website at www.oilandfills.com.

New life for old electronics

Each day, 112,000 desktop and laptop computers are discarded in the U.S. Add to that the printers and other computer peripherals, TVs, DVD players, VCRs, DVRs, digital cameras, video recorders, stereos, cell phones, MP3 players, telephones, and more, and you have a mountain of electronic waste. In fact, over 3 million tons of electronic waste are discarded each year. Of this, only about 14% is currently being recovered for reuse or recycling. We can do better!

First, maintain your electronics for a long working life. Remove dust from ventilation fans and air vents. Run regular software cleanup programs on computers. Properly ventilate around electronics so that equipment doesn't overheat. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for recharging internal batteries.

Second, don't store equipment that you no longer need or use. If you won't be using the equipment again, don't put it into a closet or drawer. Electronics are most useful to someone else when they are less than five years old. Don't use them for three years and then store them for another three!

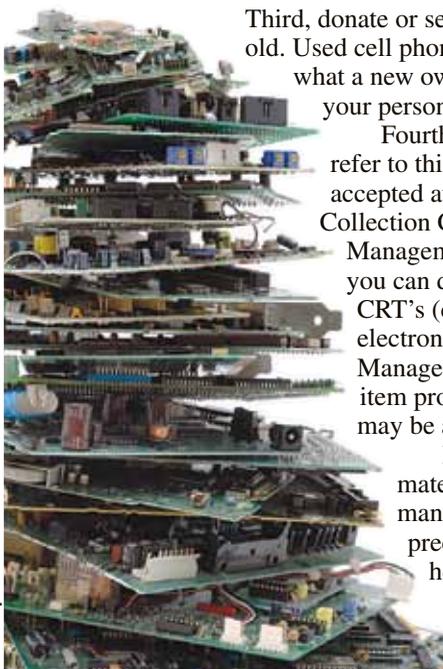
Third, donate or sell working equipment that is less than five years old. Used cell phones, computers, TVs, and accessories might be just what a new owner needs. Be sure to completely remove all of your personal data before donating or selling your equipment.

Fourth, recycle unusable electronic equipment. We refer to this as electronic waste, or e-waste. E-waste is accepted at no charge at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (see article above) at no charge. At Waste Management's Sunset Environmental Transfer Station, you can drop off TVs, computer monitors, and other CRT's (cathode ray tube monitors) at no charge. All other electronic waste is accepted for a fee at this facility. Waste Management also accepts these items as part of the bulky item program (see "What's Up?"). In addition, cell phones may be accepted through retailer take-back programs.

Recycling electronics ensures that hazardous materials, such as lead and mercury, are safely managed. It also conserves resources, recaptures precious metals, reduces pollution, saves energy, and helps create jobs.

To learn more about electronics recycling, visit www.cityofirvine.us or www.epa.gov/waste/partnerships/plugin/.

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Smart "sharps" disposal

Many people treat medical conditions at home with needles, syringes, and lancets, commonly referred to as "sharps" waste. Under state law, these sharps cannot go into trash or recycling containers, but must be handled as medical waste. To help you keep sharps out of Irvine's trash and recycling containers, the City and Waste Management have developed a safe and convenient mailing system for disposing of medical waste.

Waste Management, in partnership with the City of Irvine, offers a sharps mail-back program for residents. The program includes a kit with everything that you'll need to properly collect and dispose of sharps. Each kit includes a sharps container that is leak-proof, puncture-resistant, and clearly marked with the biohazard symbol. Used sharps, such as needles, syringes, IV needles, lancets, and test strips, are to be placed inside the container for safe storage. Once the container is full, you simply seal it, place it back in the postage-prepaid shipping container (also provided), and take it to the nearest Post Office or mail carrier. The container is delivered to a medical waste facility for proper disposal.

Mail-back sharps disposal kits are available at these locations in Irvine:

- CVS, 15333 Culver Boulevard, Suite 300, 949-654-2600
- CVS, 6775 Quail Hill Parkway, 949-823-8915
- CVS, 5385 Alton Parkway, 949-733-8226
- CVS, 14330 Culver Drive, 949-786-0151
- Rite Aid, 3875 Alton Parkway, 949-250-4465
- Rite Aid, 18112 Culver Drive, 949-786-0151
- Walgreens, 6316 Irvine Boulevard, 949-451-1563
- Walgreens, 5695 Alton Parkway, 949-726-0716

The first kit is FREE, and two additional kits will require a \$5 co-pay. To obtain a kit, residents will need to show proof of residency through either a state-issued identification or a utility bill.

Residents may also purchase sharps disposal containers at local pharmacies and dispose of them at no charge at the County of Orange Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers (see above).

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

The City of Irvine
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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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