



Happy New Year from AVI

Here are The Top 3 Ways That You Can Reduce the Waste Stream in 2011

Give Up Plastic (and Paper) Bags Do you opt for paper or plastic when at the grocery store? Neither is a good choice. Twelve million barrels of oil were used to make the 88.5 billion plastic bags consumed in the United States last year. And it takes 4 times more energy to make paper bags.

The best choice is reusable shopping bags made of cotton, nylon or durable, mesh-like plastic. Put a few reusable shopping bags in your car so you have them handy on your next shopping trip. And if you happen to forget your reusable bag (as we all do!), choose paper if you will recycle it or plastic if you will reuse or recycle it.

Stop Buying Bottled Water Did you know that it takes 26 bottles of water to produce the plastic container for a one-liter bottle of water, and that doing so pollutes 25 liters of groundwater? Don't leave a trail of plastic water bottles in your wake! Stop buying bottled water. Use reusable water bottles instead made from materials like stainless

steel or aluminum that are not likely to degrade over time. If you choose a plastic water bottle, check the number on the bottom first: Plastics numbered 3, 6 and 7 could pose a health threat to you, so look for plastics numbered 1, 2, 4 or 5.

Stop Receiving Unwanted Catalogs Each year, 19 billion catalogs are mailed to American consumers. All those catalogs require more than 53 million trees and 56 billion gallons of wastewater to produce - and many of us don't even know how we got on so many mailing lists! So grab that stack of catalogs piling up on your coffee table and clear out the clutter. Visit CatalogChoice.org to put a stop to unwanted catalogs. Within 10 weeks, your mailbox will be empty of unwanted catalogs. A less cluttered mailbox means less pollution, less waste and less of the pollution that causes global warming.

We Want Our Service to Be The Best and You Can Help

Please place your carts at the curb edge with at least 3 feet of clearance from other objects, including other carts, basketball hoops and motor vehicles.



What Do I Put Into the Organics Cart?

The reason Organics Carts are so important is that using them helps divert materials away from our landfills which is better for the environment. Here is a list to help you use your cart efficiently. Thank you for helping us provide you with the best possible service.

Organics Acceptable List

- Grass and weed clippings
- Shrubs and tree prunings (less than 4" in diameter)
- Leaves, plants and flowers
- Food scraps and food soiled paper products

Non-acceptable Organics List

- No household garbage
- **No plastic bags**
- No dirt or rocks
- No overloading - lid must be closed

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Who is StopWaste.Org and How Can They Help?



StopWaste.Org is the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board operating as one public agency.

The **Alameda County Waste Management Authority** (Authority) is a public agency formed in 1976 by a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement among the County of Alameda, each of the fourteen cities within the county, and two sanitary districts that provide refuse and recycling collection services. The Authority has a seventeen-member board composed of elected officials appointed by each member agency.

The Authority is responsible for preparation of the Alameda County Integrated Waste Management Plan and Alameda County Hazardous Waste Management Plan. It manages a long-range program for development of solid waste facilities and offers a wide variety of other programs in the areas of source reduction and recycling, market development, technical assistance and public education. Funding is provided by per ton disposal and waste import mitigation fees.

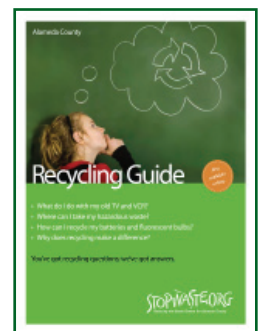
The **Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board** (Recycling Board) was created in 1990 by the voters of Alameda County through a ballot initiative, "Measure D". The eleven-member board includes six citizen experts appointed by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and five elected officials from the Alameda County Waste Management Authority.

The Recycling Board is responsible for programs that promote source reduction, residential and commercial recycling, recycled product procurement and market development. Program funding is provided from a per ton disposal surcharge at the Altamont and Vasco Road landfills.

The StopWaste.Org website is a central location for information regarding recycling all types of materials, services and resources for Alameda County residents, businesses and local governments.

- ▶ How and where to recycle
- ▶ Household hazardous waste
- ▶ Food scrap recycling
- ▶ Green building
- ▶ Bay-friendly gardening
- ▶ Environmental purchasing links
- ▶ Current laws and bans

Don't forget to download your free copy of the Recycling Guide. This 52 page brochure is jam-packed with all kinds of information about recycling just about everything. Additionally, the site has a Recycling Wizard that you can enter the item or material you are trying to dispose of and the wizard will give you the information and locations that you need to properly dispose of your items and materials.



In the spirit of conservation we are providing our newsletter online, but please feel free to print it out.