

# RECYCLE MORE

at School



Volume 7, Issue 3 West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority Spring 2007



## School Recycling Award Winners Announced at Earth Day Festival



This year, seven West County schools received a total of \$8,000 for their recycling and waste reduction efforts.

The top winner was Middle College High School. MCHS's Recycling Committee runs the recycling in twelve buildings of the Contra Costa Community College campus, where MCHS is located. The Recycling Committee plans to apply the award money toward organizing a creek clean-up day and starting organics recycling and composting.

Another winning school, Juan Crespi Middle, recycles cell phones, batteries, and printer cartridges, in addition to the materials recyclable in the blue carts. Pinole Valley High School also set up used battery collection on their campus, and collected old eyeglasses for reuse through a local charity.

The other winners were Adams Middle School, Coronado Elementary, Highland Elementary, and Valley View Elementary. Read about Valley View Elementary's award-winning recycling program on page 2.

Student involvement and leadership, combined with a dedicated teacher to oversee the students, have proved successful in each school.

RecycleMore's School Recycling Contest is an annual contest open to all public and private schools in West County. Stay tuned for the contest announcement next winter!

In the meantime, please contact RecycleMore at 215-3021 for help with improving or starting your school's recycling and composting program.

You can do it, and we can help!



Students and teachers from the winning West County schools display their award checks at Earth Day 2007!

### WHAT GOES IN THE BLUE BIN?

- Mixed paper
- Cardboard
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles
- Steel/tin cans
- Aluminum cans and foil (ball it up!)



### EARTH DAY FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!

More than 2,300 people from all over West County came out this April 21st for RecycleMore's 8th annual Earth Day Festival!

Visitors participated in various fun and educational workshops, toured the recycling plant, the landfill, and the wastewater treatment facility, ate local food, and enjoyed the music and entertainment acts.

Thanks to all student volunteers who helped make the festival a success! **Contact us next year to find out how your students can get involved!**



Student volunteers from Middle College High School designed and painted this 20-foot banner, which hung above the stage at Earth Day!

# DID YOU KNOW...

... that the #1 material in both household and business waste in West County is FOOD? Help keep food waste from being buried in the landfill by buying only what you need and by composting your food scraps, at home and at school! RecycleMore can help - call us at (510) 215-3021.

## Spotlight on Valley View

Valley View Elementary School, a first-time School Recycling Contest winner, received \$700 for its achievements in recycling and waste diversion.

Valley View has been recycling for several years, but recently, the Student Council voted to oversee the recycling efforts at the school. Getting the staff, administration, custodians, and students on the same page has invigorated the program. Teacher and Recycling Coordinator Harold Crawford calls Student Council President, 6th grader Kevin Ward, "the driving force behind the recycling effort."

The Student Council chose first to target the waste generated during lunch. As in many West County schools, lunches come packaged on cardboard trays, which can be recycled. Student Council members agreed to volunteer their lunch periods to assist other students with placing cardboard trays and other recyclable items in the blue recycling carts, while making sure other waste is disposed of in the garbage can.

Thanks to these students' efforts, the custodian has already noted that the amount of garbage generated at lunch has decreased from 8 or 9 bags to 3 or 4 bags per day!

Valley View hopes to expand its lunchtime recycling program to include aluminum lunch trays. They also plan to mount an education campaign throughout the school to inform all students and teachers about what should be recycled. Some of the award money will go toward improving the composting in the school's garden. Kudos to Valley View - we look forward to your future successes!



Valley View students Asitha Kaduwela, 6th grade, and Tomas Lipscomb, 5th grade, volunteer their lunchtime to oversee the cardboard lunch container recycling.

**It's not too early, it's not too late!  
If your school is not recycling,  
RecycleMore can help you start.  
Please call us at 215-3021!**

## FIVE WAYS TO REDUCE END-OF-THE-YEAR WASTE AT SCHOOL



- 1 Recycle all paper items that cannot be reused. Recycle all other acceptable materials, too!
- 2 Organize a mini-yard sale of unclaimed lost and found items, or donate them to a local charity!
- 3 Collect your unwanted school supplies for donation to a local charity.
- 4 Donate books to book drives such as Children's Book Project or Books for the Barrios.
- 5 If you need extra recycling pick-ups, call Chuck Paradis at Richmond Sanitary Service, (510) 231-1621.

## Your school can recycle old computers, monitors, paint, batteries, and other **hazardous waste** for FREE!

If your school needs to recycle old computers or other electronics, old paint or cleaners, batteries, or gardening products, please call Mersina at (510) 215-3104 for more information and to request a fee waiver form.

Materials are delivered to the West Contra Costa Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at 101 Pittsburg Avenue in Richmond.

**Help keep toxics  
out of the  
landfill and  
out of our  
water!**



# RecycleMore's School Poster Contest

This spring, RecycleMore sponsored its first poster contest for West County students.

The contest was an opportunity for students to showcase their creativity while thinking about recycling and waste reduction issues.



Posters on display at West County Earth Day.

From over 120 submissions, we selected four winners. Each winner received \$100, and each winner's school also received \$100. The four winning posters, along with nine other excellent entries, are making the rounds in West County. They have been displayed at the West County Earth Day Festival, the El Cerrito Earth Day Festival, and at the Richmond, El Cerrito, and San Pablo public libraries. The posters will be on display at the Pinole Public Library in June and the new Hercules Public Library in July. Come check them out!

Stay tuned next year for other opportunities for your students and your school to win some extra cash!

# Do You Want to Have a School Garden Next Year?

Plan ahead...It's easy as 1-2-3!

- 1** Pick a spot for your garden and develop a preliminary planting plan. Start clearing away debris and amending the soil with compost (see Step 3).
- 2** Apply for a **RecycleMore mini-grant** as early in the schoolyear as possible. Don't wait until the spring - it takes 4 to 8 weeks to process an application. Fall is an excellent time to start preparing your soil for planting in the spring.
- 3** Call us at 215-3021 to schedule a **free composting class** and receive a free compost bin for your school. We can train students, teachers, and parents to compost yard trimmings and food scraps, recycling nutrients and creating a wonderful soil amendment!

## RecycleMore at School Programs ... Looking Ahead to Fall 2007

Next fall, RecycleMore will continue to offer a range of FREE, quality programs to all schools in West Contra Costa County.

### Recycling and Landfill Field Trips

Tour the landfill and the recycling center on this ever-popular field trip.

### Four Rs Presentations

Introduce your class to the 4 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot!

### Paper-making Workshops

Each student creates an art project in this hands-on workshop, illustrating the "closing the loop" message.

### Worm Composting Workshops

West County's own Worm Lady, Claudia Taurean, shows your class how to set up a class worm bin and teaches your students about vermicomposting.

### After School Programs

The East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse's "Art in the Heart" program conducts recycled art projects at select schools.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP, CALL 215 - 3021!**



Kindergarten students at Downer Elementary observe the red wigglers during a worm composting workshop.



If RecycleMore set up a worm bin for you this year, please take care of the worms over the summer!

**PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE THE WORMS INTO A GARDEN ... they will not survive!**

Call 215-3126 for worm care information!

## Student and Teacher Feedback

Students and teachers in West County reflect on our programs:

*"Great way to make students more environmentally aware!"*

**3rd grade Teacher, Peres Elementary**

*"I love this tour, I learn something new every year."*

**5th Grade Teacher, St. John the Baptist**

*"All of my friends liked the field trip. I have told my parents how to reduce, reuse, recycle and rot."*

**5th Grade Student, Bethel Academy**



**recyclemore**  
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WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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**Please Reuse & Recycle  
This Newsletter:**

- Pass it on to a colleague
- Post it in your staff room
- When it is no longer of use to anyone....place it in a recycling bin!

SCHOOL POSTING  
DISTRIBUTION APPROVED  
AT PRINCIPAL'S DISCRETION  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



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## SCHOOL GARDEN GRANTS



**Mini-grants** of up to **\$1,000** are available for West County Schools to start or improve school gardens that incorporate composting as a form of waste reduction. Funding is considered on a first-come, first-serve basis, so start planning now for next year!

**Contact Claudia at 215-3126 for more information.**

## IMPORTANT RECYCLING PHONE NUMBERS

<b>Additional Carts or Extra Pick Ups</b> Richmond Sanitary Service	<b>231-1621</b>
<b>General Information</b> WCCIWMA (RecycleMore)	<b>215-3125</b>
<b>Waste Audits, Earth Day Information, Grant Information, and Classroom Bins</b> Claudia Taurean	<b>215-3126</b>
<b>Field Trips, Paper-making Kits/Workshops, and Compost Hotline</b> Lana Skrtic	<b>215-3021</b>

(For day-to-day recycling/waste reduction operations, contact your school's Recycling Coordinator.)

**If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please email [lanas@recyclemore.com](mailto:lanas@recyclemore.com).**



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