

# County of Santa Cruz CURBSIDER

MARCH 2010

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Workshop



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**greenwaste**  
a brighter shade of green





# Attend a Compost Workshop

## Get a Free Bin, and Recycle your Food Scraps!

Pre-register for workshops on-line at [www.compostsantacruzcounty.org](http://www.compostsantacruzcounty.org)

### Comprehensive Composting Workshop Dates:

Saturday, March 27, 1-3 PM,  
Live Oak Grange,  
1900 17th Ave., Santa Cruz

Saturday, April 17, 1-3 PM,  
Earth Day Santa Cruz, San Lorenzo Park  
137 Dakota St., Santa Cruz

Saturday, May 8, 1-3 PM  
Cabrillo College Mother's Day Plant Sale  
6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos

Saturday, June 26, 1-3 PM  
Master Gardeners' Smart Gardening Faire, Skypark  
361 Kings Village Rd, Scotts Valley

Complete a Comprehensive Workshop to receive a free Biostack bin. For more information about backyard composting call the Rotline at 423-HEAP.



### Wormshop Dates:

Saturday, April 10, 1-3 PM  
Grey Bears Recycling Center  
2710 Chanticleer Ave., Santa Cruz

Sunday, May 2, 1-3 PM,  
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park  
800 Quail Hollow Rd., Felton

Saturday, June 19, 1-3 PM  
Grey Bears Recycling Center  
2710 Chanticleer Ave., Santa Cruz

Complete a Wormshop to receive a free Can-O-Worms bin. For more information about worm composting call the Worm Doctor at 427-3452.

Can't Attend a Workshop? Order a Biostack or Can-O-Worms for \$25 (limit one per customer). Call Green Waste Recovery at (800) 665-2209 to order.



**Limit of one free or reduced cost Biostack OR Can-O-Worms per customer per five-year period. Pre-approval required.**

## Produce Stickers Don't Compost

Raw fruits and vegetables can now be put in the green yard waste cart in the County's curbside recycling program. Raw vegetative waste breaks down in a similar manner as yard trimmings, so no change in the processing is required. However, we do need to be vigilant about removing the little oval stickers that stores love to paste all over the produce, as they are a plastic that does not break down. These stickers belong in the garbage. If you compost at home, you will notice at the end of a year all your food scraps have turned into a rich humus - dotted with colorful specks of produce labels if you forgot to remove them. The same eyesore can occur in the mulch produced from the green cart material if we don't peel those labels off.







# Santa Cruz County Green Schools Program

The County of Santa Cruz Green Schools Program (GSP) is a project that works with the County's schools to educate students, teachers and staff on environmental topics, such as resource conservation, storm water runoff, water quality and conservation, energy conservation, recycling and waste reduction. The goal of this program is to support the county's schools as they evolve into "Green Schools" that model wise resource use, eliminate waste, reduce runoff pollution, and train students to conserve scarce resources like energy and water.

The program provides both in-class and school-wide presentations, educational assemblies, and technical assistance to member schools.

The GSP is a modification of the original award-winning Waste Free Schools (WFS) program which focused entirely on waste reduction and recycling education. The GSP builds on the success of the WFS that worked so well for the past 12 years. The program is funded by the County of Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley Public Works Departments and Green Waste Recovery.

Thirty-two schools are currently involved, and all schools in the County are invited participate in the GSP.

## Irrigation with Graywater Conserves Water and Money

Looking for a way to decrease your summer water bill? California has adopted a new residential graywater code that facilitates landscape irrigation from clothes washing machines (excluding dirty diapers), bathtubs, showers, and bathroom sinks. Graywater accounts for about one-half of the water that goes down the drain from a home, or 10,000-15,000 gallons from May-October.

Graywater provides multiple benefits. The most obvious is the water savings. Significant amounts of energy are saved from pumping less water from our streams and aquifers, and from not having to send the wastewater to the water treatment facility. Sending less wastewater to the treatment facility translates into chemical and energy savings from not having to treat the graywater. People on septic systems that divert graywater to the landscape benefit from having less septic loading, thus extending the life of their septic systems.

Plumbing and landscape contractors from the Central Coast Graywater Alliance can help you design, install, and maintain a graywater irrigation system that maximizes water savings and protects environmental health. To request a consultation from a member of the Graywater Alliance, or to become more informed about graywater law and reuse options, visit [www.ecoact.org/Programs/Pollution\\_Prevention/Graywater](http://www.ecoact.org/Programs/Pollution_Prevention/Graywater).



# Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water



As storm water flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it transports debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Storm water can flow into a storm drain system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm drain or road system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for

swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of storm water. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect our lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!

## Vehicle and Garage

Use a commercial car wash, or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface using biodegradable cleaners.

Check your vehicles and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand.

Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating auto parts and service stores.

## Home Repair and Improvement

Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Store to avoid leaks and spills.

Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints and solvents at a household hazardous waste collection facility.

## Lawn and Garden

Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and not at all during or before rains.

Select native plants and grasses that are drought- and pest-resistant.

Sweep up yard debris; compost or recycle yard waste when possible.

Don't over-water your lawn. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.

## Pet Care

When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method.

Remember...Only Rain down the Drain.  
Our storm drains connect to our local water bodies!

For more information see: <http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/npdes.htm>

# Save The Date!

*April 8*

## **FREE Compost Use for Landscape and Environmental Enhancement Workshop**

Simpkins Swimming Center

Presented by the County of Santa Cruz and Vision Recycling. Please confirm your registration as seating is limited. Registration starts at 5:30 PM and refreshments and light dinner will be provided. To register for this workshop, please contact Ana Maria Rebelo at 831-454-2160 or e-mail at [dpw124@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:dpw124@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)

*April 17*

## **Earth Day 2010**

Once again the County of Santa Cruz, the City of Santa Cruz, local non-profits, and concerned citizens are working together to make Earth Day 2010 the premier environmental event for the greater Santa Cruz community. Earth Day 2010 will take place on April 17th from 11 AM to 4 PM rain or shine in the San Lorenzo Park and Benchlands behind the County building. This free event will be solar powered and will feature activities for kids, live music, educational information and a compost workshop. Come enjoy a great community event and learn how you can do your part to protect the environment.

*Week of April 17-25*

## **Unincorporated Area of Santa Cruz County Fire Prevention Week**

Saturday, April 17th through Sunday, April 25th, all Green Waste Fees will be waived at the Buena Vista Landfill and the Ben Lomond Transfer Station. Residential only/Restrictions apply.

**County of Santa Cruz Public Works**

701 Ocean Street, Room 410  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2160

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# Recycling Resources

**Recycle Information Line**      **831-454-2333**

- What and where to recycle (recorded message)

**Curbside Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection**      **800-665-2209**

- Begin new service
- Report missed recycling or trash service
- Request delivery or removal of carts
- Obtain oil recycling jugs

**County Public Works Dept.**      **831-454-2160**  
[www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org](http://www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org)

- Apartments and business recycling inquiries
- Complaints, compliments or suggestions

**Household Hazardous Waste**      **831-454-2606**  
(recorded message)

- Schedule for free disposal
- Non-hazardous alternatives
- Free surplus paint

**Ecology Action**      **831-426-5925**

- [www.ecoact.org](http://www.ecoact.org) • [www.ecocruz.org](http://www.ecocruz.org)
- General recycling information

**Rotline Composting Resources**      **831-423-HEAP (423-4327)**

- Worm Doctor      831-427-3452  
[www.compostsantacruzcounty.org](http://www.compostsantacruzcounty.org)

**Buena Vista Landfill**      **831-454-5331**

- Recorded information      831-454-2430
- Recycling Center      831-479-1055  
(Operated by the California Grey Bears)

**Ben Lomond Transfer Station**      **831-336-3957**

- Recorded information      831-454-2430
- Recycling Center      831-338-1728  
(Operated by the Valley Women's Club)

**City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility**      **831-420-6270**  
(landfill)

- Open to Unincorporated County residents in Davenport and Bonny Doon only



**Para información en español sobre el reciclaje en las áreas no incorporadas del condado de Santa Cruz, favor de llamar al (800) 665-2209.**