



For Immediate Release

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SHOREWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER SCHOOL TOURS AVAILABLE
Busing Available for 4th through 6th Grade Classes in RethinkWaste Service Area

SAN CARLOS, CA – October 3, 2012 – RethinkWaste has kicked off this school year’s free tour program at the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos now that schools are back in full swing. Tour participants will learn about the 4Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle and rot) and resource conservation, and have the unique opportunity to see firsthand what happens to garbage, recyclables and organics once they are picked up from their homes and businesses. Over 3,000 people have toured Shoreway since the tour program began in January for schools and the general public.

RethinkWaste is also providing bus transportation for 4th through 6th grade classes for both public and private schools in the RethinkWaste service area as this has been found to be a key success factor in other Bay area environmental education programs. The School Groups Tour program seeks to engage students and increase their knowledge through active learning experiences and are based on best practices in environmental education that are connected to the California State Content Standards.

The approximately two-hour tour includes visiting the Transfer Station, where garbage, food scraps and yard trimmings are handled; a state-of-art Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), where recyclables are processed; the Environmental Education Center, which includes museum-quality exhibits, reuse art and a talking robot; and more. It also includes hands-on learning activities and pre- and post-tour lessons.

“We have received an overwhelming interest from school teachers, parents and the general public to come and learn about what happens to our stuff after curbside pick-up and how to conserve our resources,” said Faustina Mututa, RethinkWaste Environmental Education Coordinator. “People are really actively involved with being environmental stewards and visiting the Shoreway Environmental Center offers a big picture platform to see and learn what is really going on. We look forward to seeing more new faces!”

Tours for this school year will continue to be offered through June 2012, Mondays through Fridays, and a summer tour program will be in place in 2013. In addition to the school tours, the general public is invited to visit Shoreway during its Public Open House Days, held the third Thursday of every month from 9:30 am – 10:30 am and 11 am – 12 pm.

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MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

RethinkWaste owns the Shoreway Environmental Center, which receives all of the residential and commercial recyclables, organic materials and solid waste collected in the service area by Recology San Mateo County. The facility is permitted to receive 3,000 tons per day, and is operated by South Bay Recycling (SBR) on the Agency's behalf. The facility underwent \$47 million in capital improvements to transform it from the outdated Shoreway Recycling and Transfer Station to the Shoreway Environmental Center, serving as a national model for innovative recycling and material handling operations, and sustainable building practices. Construction began in November 2009 and a grand opening was held on September 27, 2011 to mark the completion of the project.

Shoreway was certified LEED® Gold in June 2012 by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. The Shoreway Environmental Center was also awarded the 2012 Recycling Systems Excellence Gold Award in August by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), the top national award for a recycling facility.

The Shoreway Environmental Center is located at 333 Shoreway Road in San Carlos. Tours and reservations can be made by sending an email to tours@RethinkWaste.org or calling (650) 802-3506. All tours will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information on the tour programs and reservations, please visit <http://www.rethinkwaste.org/shoreway-facility/environmental-education-center>.

RethinkWaste

Rethink Waste is a joint powers authority of twelve public Agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County, California and is a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. RethinkWaste owns and manages the Shoreway Environmental Center which receives all the recyclables, organic materials, and materials (i.e. solid waste) collected in its service area. RethinkWaste also provides strategic oversight, support and management of service providers that collect, process, recycle and dispose of materials for its Member Agencies. RethinkWaste (i.e., South Bayside Waste Management Authority) was formed in 1982. For more information on RethinkWaste, please visit our website at www.RethinkWaste.org or follow us at www.Facebook.com/rethinkwaste or www.Twitter.com/rethinkwaste.

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