



# RethinkWaste.org

South Bayside Waste Management Authority

## PRESS RELEASE

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### *Go Green this Halloween and Recycle your Jack-O-Lanterns and Pumpkins!*

**SAN CARLOS, CA – October 16, 2007** – Kids love Halloween. But less fun is dealing with the waste when it's over. This year, get the most out of your Jack-O-Lanterns by composting. The South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA) and Allied Waste are pleased to announce the collection of pumpkins as part of its curbside recycling program.

Recycling discarded pumpkins is an easy way to help reduce greenhouse gases emitted when plant material and food-scrap breakdown in the landfill. Residents can do their part by simply removing decorations and candles, and placing old pumpkins in the green plant materials cart with grass and leaves. The pumpkins, along with your plant materials, will be collected by Allied Waste and taken to Newby Island compost facility in San Jose for processing.

"Halloween is a great opportunity for kids to learn about composting," said Kevin McCarthy, Executive Director of SBWMA. "We thought this would be a fun way to make Halloween an environmentally friendly event too."

Residents' discarded pumpkins will breakdown in time to give next summer's lawns and gardens a needed boost. The resulting compost will be shared with residents in our seasonal Compost Giveaways in SBWMA communities, and sold to landscapers and farmers. Compost is the byproduct of the natural decomposition of organic materials into a dark, nutrient-rich soil amendment. By applying compost to landscaping and mixing it with soil, people return organic resources back to the land, providing a non-chemical alternative to fertilizers.

Please join us in recycling your pumpkins and make recycling part of your holiday habits.

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Formed in 1982, the SBWMA is a joint powers authority comprised of 12 member agencies in San Mateo County and is a leader in innovative recycling and waste-reduction programs. Currently, Allied Waste of San Mateo County provides collection services for 91,000 residences and nearly 10,000 businesses in SBWMA jurisdictions. The SBWMA also owns and manages the Shoreway Recycling and Disposal Center (SRDC) consisting of a permitted solid waste transfer station and a materials recovery facility. To learn more about the SBWMA or how you can help reduce, reuse and recycle your waste, please visit our web site at [www.RethinkWaste.org](http://www.RethinkWaste.org).

Allied Waste is a leader in the solid waste industry, operating collection companies, transfer stations, landfills and recycling facilities across the country. Serving more than 10 million residential, commercial and industrial customers across 128 major markets in 37 states and Puerto Rico, Allied Waste recycles approximately 1.7 million tons of recyclable commodities a year, including paper, glass and plastics and reusable construction debris.