

RETHINKER

Spring/Summer 2018

DRAMATIC DROP IN GLOBAL PAPER MARKETS

For many years, American recyclers sold the majority of our baled paper products to Chinese manufacturers, who turn it into new packaging products like cereal boxes and shipping cartons. The sale of this commodity helps to offset a large part of the costs for the recycling program and other services that are offered to residents.

On March 1, there was an unexpected and radical change in the type and quality of materials accepted. Historically, the Chinese markets accepted up to 5% of contamination in these materials. The new standard is now 0.5%, which will be a challenging standard for American recyclers to meet.



Printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks

RethinkWaste Administrative Offices
610 Elm Street, Suite 202 | San Carlos, CA 94070

The Rethinker newsletter is dedicated to educating residents and businesses regarding waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. With your help, we can meet our goal of diverting waste from the landfill and maintain healthy, livable communities.

A Public Agency



WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT GLOBAL PAPER MARKETS?

These new restrictions have a huge financial impact on the RethinkWaste recycling program. When we aren't able to meet the Chinese market's quality standard for recycling, we have to find alternative paper recycling locations. Ultimately, this all impacts program costs for RethinkWaste residents and businesses.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

RethinkWaste and our collection service provider and partner, Recology San Mateo County, are stepping up our education and outreach to residents and businesses, but we can't do it without your help! Please re-familiarize yourself with what is accepted in our diversion programs, including the "Recycling Do's and Don'ts" below, such as keeping film and black plastic OUT of the recycling.

You can be part of the solution, so please continue to recycle and compost at home, school and work. Together, we can make a positive difference in the quality of materials being collected and diverted from the landfill.

RECYCLING DOs AND DON'Ts

DO RECYCLE



*Please ensure all bottles, jars, and cans are empty and cardboard is flattened.

DON'T RECYCLE!



all plastic packaging and black plastic

SEE WHERE YOUR RECYCLING, COMPOST, AND TRASH GOES!

Come to a public tour of the Shoreway Environmental Center available every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:30am and 11:30am in San Carlos (July and August schedule varies, check website). You'll get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the first stop of many in the movement of materials collected from residents and businesses in San Mateo County. To schedule a public tour, please email tours@rethinkwaste.org.



FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS!

Compost giveaways, document shredding, and e-scrap recycling are available free to RethinkWaste area residents!

Find your city's event by visiting:

www.rethinkwaste.org/communityevents

BATTERIES ARE HAZARDOUS AND DON'T GO IN ANY CART!

Batteries contain hazardous materials including lithium, cadmium, and nickel that can leach into the environment if not properly disposed of. If batteries enter the recycling or trash stream, they can get crushed by compactors and start fires, potentially harming employees who collect and sort materials or damage equipment.



Free & Convenient Household Disposal Battery Options

- Drop-off locations at neighborhood hardware stores and the Shoreway Public Recycling Center at 333 Shoreway Rd, San Carlos
- Single-Family & Multi-Family disposal options
- More information at www.rethinkwaste.org/batteries

SAN MATEO COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Cleaning? Moving? Have old cleaners, pesticides, paint, batteries, fluorescent lights, nail polish or other unwanted/unused hazardous waste at home? San Mateo County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program offers free neighborhood drop-off events to all County residents.

To participate **you must schedule an appointment at www.smhealth.org/hhw** or call (650) 363-4718, select option 3.

MONTH	DAY	LOCATION*
July	28	Redwood City
August	11	Menlo Park
August	28	Foster City
September	22	Redwood City
November	10	Redwood City



*Specific location will be disclosed after your appointment is made. San Mateo County's permanent facility in San Mateo is open weekly Thurs-Sat. 8 a.m.—2 p.m.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

RethinkWaste is your regional public agency* that owns the 16-acre Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos and manages our two major contractors: Recology & South Bay Recycling. [RethinkWaste | \(650\) 802-3500 | \[rethinker@rethinkwaste.org\]\(mailto:rethinker@rethinkwaste.org\) | \[www.rethinkwaste.org\]\(http://www.rethinkwaste.org\)](http://www.rethinkwaste.org)

For questions about your garbage bill or to schedule services: [Recology San Mateo County | 225 Shoreway Rd, San Carlos | \(650\) 595-3900 | \[carts@recology.com\]\(mailto:carts@recology.com\) | \[www.Recology.com\]\(http://www.Recology.com\)](http://www.Recology.com)

For questions about the Shoreway Environmental Center (hours of operations, materials accepted, rates, etc.): [South Bay Recycling | 333 Shoreway Rd, San Carlos | \(650\) 802-8355 | \[www.SBRecycling.net\]\(http://www.SBRecycling.net\)](http://www.SBRecycling.net)

*RethinkWaste Member Agencies:
Atherton,
Belmont,
Burlingame,
East Palo Alto,
Foster City,
Hillsborough,
Menlo Park,
Redwood City,
San Carlos,
San Mateo,
County of San Mateo &
West Bay Sanitary Dist.



Our Contracting Partners:



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Follow us on social media @RethinkWaste to get the latest eco-tips and information.

