



# Commercial recycling expands

Recent state legislation will make recycling mandatory for most multi-family complexes and commercial properties. Beginning in 2012, all multi-family and commercial properties that produce more than 4 cubic yards of trash per week will be required to recycle. Fortunately, in the City of San Dimas, commercial recycling service is priced at half the cost of trash service.

At the outset, recycling bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard is half the price of disposing of those same materials as trash. In addition, adding recycling service may also reduce your disposal fees. When you or your tenants are recycling, you may be able to rent smaller dumpsters for trash or need less frequent pickups, either of which will lower your costs. So while recycling is improving our shared environment, it may also be improving your bottom line.

If you are a property or business manager and you have questions about recycling, or if you are ready to set up your recycling service now, contact Waste Management at 800-266-7551.

For a list of materials that can be recycled at all multi-family complexes and commercial properties, refer to the box at right. However, businesses may be able to recycle additional items, such as plastic film, metal hangers, or scrap steel. Since reducing your trash disposal saves you money, be sure that you are recycling everything you can!



## Recycle all of these materials in San Dimas!

- All aluminum and steel cans
- All colors of glass bottles and jars
- Clear, colored, and white plastic bottles, jugs, and containers
- Paper items, including white and colored paper, junk mail, wrapping paper, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, telephone books, post-it notes, file folders, envelopes (windows OK), and clean paper bags
- Boxes, including corrugated cardboard, shoe boxes, and cereal boxes (remove liners)
- Large packing Styrofoam (no packing peanuts)

Cardboard is a bulky waste, but a valuable recyclable. Keep cardboard out of your trash to reduce your disposal costs.



## Confused about plastic bags?

Earlier this year, Los Angeles County announced that a ban on plastic carryout shopping bags would begin to take effect in unincorporated areas of the county on July 1, 2011. News of this ban on plastic shopping bags had many individuals and store owners confused in cities like San Dimas. Does the ban apply here? The short answer is "no."

As it stands, the ban will affect only supermarkets and large discount stores outside of the county's incorporated cities, not stores within incorporated cities, such as San Dimas. As of January 1, 2012, this ban will extend to all stores, including convenience stores, outside of incorporated cities.

So, while the ban does not apply to stores located within the city limits of San Dimas, it may affect other areas where you regularly shop. At the affected stores, shoppers who forget their reusable bags may purchase paper bags at checkout for 10 cents each.

Wherever you shop, now is a great time to get into the habit of carrying your own reusable bag. A single reusable bag has the lifespan of 700 disposable plastic bags, meaning that you'll be able to use the same reusable bags for many years and hundreds, if not thousands, of uses. Remember to rinse or wash the bags occasionally, especially if they have gotten wet or sticky.

The Public Works Department has reusable shopping bags available to residents. Simply stop by City Hall and ask about picking up a free bag. There is a limit of one per household, while supplies last. Local grocery, discount, and many other stores are selling reusable bags.

## Earth Day at the Farmer's Market

In April, we celebrated Earth Day at the Farmer's Market in downtown San Dimas. In addition to all the great produce and other food available weekly from April through September at our local Farmer's Market, the Earth Day celebration featured energy-saving transportation options and alternative-fuel vehicles, tree giveaways, live music, and lots of valuable and exciting information on how to green your lifestyle and save money while doing it! The City of San Dimas, Waste Management, Edison, and Golden State Water took part in this celebration.

Watch for details next spring about Earth Day 2012 at the Farmer's Market!



## Become a smarter gardener



Great news, San Dimas residents! On Saturday, October 22, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., you can attend a Los Angeles County Smart Gardening Workshop in Horsethief Canyon Park, 301 Horsethief Canyon Road. The Smart Gardening program regularly offers workshops around the county on water-wise, fire-wise, and low-waste lawn and garden care. However, this is the only time this year that the workshop comes to San Dimas.

At the workshop, you'll get step-by-step instructions on composting, grass recycling, xeriscaping (planting drought-tolerant and native species), and more. No registration is needed.

For additional dates and locations and other details, visit [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com) or call 888-CLEAN-LA.

## Looking for a speaker?

Are you in charge of booking speakers for a civic organization, class, or club in the City of San Dimas? Contact the Public Works Department's Environmental Services Coordinator. Presentations can address a particular topic, such as recycling or waste reduction, or be tailored to suit the interests of your group. Public Works Department staff members are also available to participate in community events, school assemblies or festivities, or recycling events. For details or with questions, call 909-394-6244 or email [publicworks@ci.san-dimas.ca.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.san-dimas.ca.us).





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If you were going to make only one change this month, we have a great idea—capture all of your aluminum cans for recycling!

Aluminum beverage cans are one of the easiest containers to recycle in America. Every curbside and drop-off program accepts them. Where recycling containers are found in public spaces, like hotel lobbies, airports, malls, or bus stations, aluminum cans are almost always accepted for recycling there, too. In 2010, Americans recycled nearly 56 billion aluminum cans. That's a huge number and represents 58.1% of the cans used. However, with such easy access to recycling for these cans, why isn't that number even higher?

There are many great reasons to recycle aluminum cans. A new aluminum can has 68% total recycled content, so the markets for aluminum cans are healthy and the cans are being used to make new aluminum. In addition, making aluminum from recycled beverage cans creates only 5% of the greenhouse gas emissions and uses only 5% of the energy when compared to making aluminum from raw materials. Aluminum is infinitely recyclable, so today, 75% of the aluminum ever smelted is still in use.

The next time you finish a drink, think about that can. Don't litter it! Don't toss it in the trash! Recycle it! Capture all of your cans—we know you "can" do it!

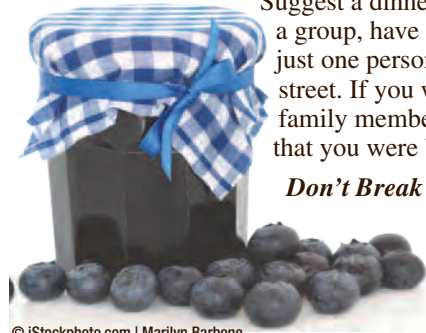
Learn more about aluminum can recycling at [www.recyclecansnow.com](http://www.recyclecansnow.com).

## Green Gifts for a Happier Holiday

Would you like to make your holiday season a little less stressful and turn it a brighter shade of green? Would you like a season that focuses more on your relationships than your stuff? We have some advice that will help.

**Making a List and Checking It Twice:** Write down all of the names of people for whom you normally buy gifts. Is there someone on the list that you'd like to see more often? Instead of giving a gift, make arrangements to get together. Could someone on your list use company throughout the year? Avoid buying a gift and, instead, promise a monthly visit. Do you have adult family members on the list?

Suggest a dinner together in lieu of gifts, donate to a charity that you select as a group, have a "white elephant" gift exchange, or draw names and buy for just one person. Remember, in most relationships, gift-giving is a two-way street. If you want to change the rules this year, communicate with friends and family members about your ideas and suggestions. They will probably be glad that you were brave enough to bring it up!



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**Don't Break the Bank:** Decide how much you plan to spend on holiday giving. Once you have a total, estimate a budget for each person on your list. Remember that the little extras, such as stocking stuffers and accessories, can add up. As you begin to shop, keep track of your receipts. Periodically evaluate how much you're spending compared to the budget that you developed.

**Priceless:** Consider gifts of yourself and your time. These gifts improve your relationships, cost nothing, and create no waste. For example, you could offer to visit a friend and bring all the fixings for a homemade dinner—and then make it together. You might schedule a game or movie night for family or friends. You could offer to babysit for an evening or even a weekend. No children in the family? Offer to pet sit or house sit. Volunteer to clean up the yard in the spring or mow the lawn. The possibilities are endless.

**Made With Love:** Another way to give of yourself is to put your skills to work by making homemade gifts. If you preserve food or jams, give some away as gifts. Record a CD or DVD of a child's performance or an "interview" that gets the child talking about friends, school, and activities, and send the recording to a far-off relative. Refresh a family memory by making your brother the cookies that Grandma used to bake. Decorate an old picture frame with fishing lures and add a photo of you and your grandpa fishing together. Put your old jewelry, clothes, and hats into an unneeded suitcase to create the perfect dress-up chest for a child. We're sure you can think of many other ideas that reflect your own hobbies or honor the skills that a family member or friend passed along to you.

**Experience the Drama:** Do you have friends or relatives who love a certain sports team but don't go to games very often? Give them tickets! Not a sports fan? Give tickets to a concert or play, a movie gift card, a museum membership, or park passes. If you have a friend who is interested in learning something new or becoming an expert on a favorite hobby, offer to pay for a class.

**Know Thy Recipient:** Waiting until the last minute to shop can lead to breaking the budget and choosing less-than-perfect gifts. When you are out of time, anything near a checkout seems "good enough." However, a good-enough gift is likely to be unused. At best, it will be returned, re-gifted, sold, or given away. At worst, it will be forever unused and, eventually, thrown in the trash. Knowing what a friend or



family member likes and dislikes, as well as knowing sizes and other essentials, can lead to thoughtful gifts that don't waste your time and money or end up as trash. If you don't have time to find a gift that will reflect the recipient, give a gift card instead.

**Wrap It Up:** Remember to wrap without waste. Reuse last year's paper (and save this year's for next year). Choose reusable gift bags. Decorate boxes that you use each year for the same person. Use fabric scraps, magazine pages, colorful brochures, or old maps to create unique wrapping "paper."



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## FAST FACTS

### Greenest on the Gridiron

This fall, colleges and universities across the U.S. will be competing in the Game Day Challenge. Each participating school designs a waste reduction plan for one 2011 regular season home football game and then measures the results. Schools can collect common recyclables, such as paper, beverage containers, and cardboard, as well as food for donation and composting. The amount of waste generated and recycled will determine which school is the greenest on the gridiron.

Last year, more than 75 colleges and universities took part in the Game Day Challenge. During the challenge, the participating schools kept 500,000 pounds of waste out of landfills, preventing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 180 cars off our roads for a full year.

If you enjoy fall sports, concerts, or festivals, be sure to look for and use recycling bins. If you are managing events, please be sure to include recycling in your plans.



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### Old bags with new purpose

We've all been there. One day you are at the store and realize that your favorite reusable bag, the one you've had for the past several



years which has been with you through rain and shine, has a rip that is beyond your ability to repair. Never fear! ChicoBag has partnered with The Grateful Thread to accept

old reusable bags and put them to a new use. Bags that can be repaired will be given to families who can't afford to purchase reusable bags. Bags that can't be repaired will be turned into useful new products, such as beautiful hand-woven rugs.

You can mail clean, old reusable bags to this address: ChicoBag Company, c/o Zero Waste Program, 13434 Browns Valley Drive, Chico, CA 95973.

Learn more at [www.chicobag.com/t-repurposing\\_program.aspx](http://www.chicobag.com/t-repurposing_program.aspx).



# Simplify, simplify!

In *Walden*, Henry David Thoreau wrote, “Our life is frittered away by detail. . . . Simplify, simplify.” Watch a few minutes of cable TV and you’ll discover that Thoreau has thoroughly modern counterparts. Do a little channel surfing and you’ll find shows devoted to clearing out the clutter, ranging from simple organizing tricks to professional clean-outs.

While most of us will never appear on a television show about hoarding, many of us have more clutter than we wish we had. Whether it is a jam-packed clothes closet or a cabinet that is bursting at the hinges, devoting some time to decluttering, organizing, and donating or selling what you don’t need can be a refreshing experience for your spirit as well as your space.

In *The Joy of Less, A Minimalist Living Guide: How to Declutter, Organize, and Simplify Your Life*, Francine Jay compares decluttering to dieting. You can go for the short-term fix, begin to feel deprived, and relapse, or you can transform your relationship with stuff. She advocates for making conscious decisions about what you buy, what you have, what you keep, and what you release. In other words, she focuses on making the long-term change.

In a chapter entitled, “Trash, Treasure, or Transfer,” Jay begins with trash—things that are clearly garbage or are outdated and can be recycled, like newspapers and magazines. The treasure pile will contain those things that you want to keep. However, she cautions that your treasures need to add either beauty or function to your life. Finally, in your transfer pile, you include all of the perfectly usable things that you no longer want or need. As she puts it, “In here belong all those perfectly good items that are no longer good for *you*.” Your transfer pile will include items that you plan to give away and those you hope to sell.

Thoughtful decluttering can also lead to less impulse shopping. When you declutter, you often find things that you “had to have” and, yet, never used. You don’t have to spend much time at a thrift store to know that you are not alone. Many of the items donated or resold each year aren’t just like-new, but are brand-new.

Rather than fritter your life away with details, or spend all of your time at home moving stuff to find what you’re looking for, simplify. And when you simplify, share. Many items that are no longer good for you would be very good for someone else.



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Image courtesy of Jenna Isaacson

## Reuse is big business



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Reuse has environmental, social, and economic benefits. The environmental benefits are clear—when we reuse, no new materials are harvested, mined, or manufactured. Reusing leads to less air and water pollution. In addition, reused items may be transported shorter distances to the end user.

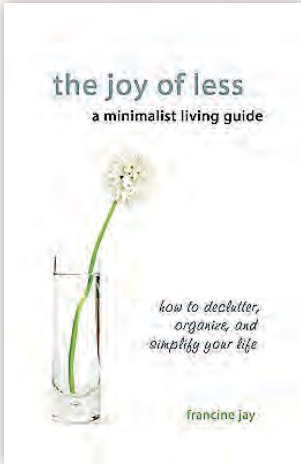
In terms of social benefits, reuse provides usable goods to people and organizations with limited means. Many reuse centers take part in job-training programs and provide employment for adults with disabilities and at-risk youth.

You might, however, find the economic benefits most surprising. Reuse creates jobs, encourages local business activity, and, of course, lowers disposal costs. Nationwide, reuse is a more than \$14.1 billion industry. Depending on the product, reuse creates 30 to 300 times more jobs than disposing of the same material on a ton-per-ton basis. At the low end, wood pallet repair creates about 28 jobs per 10,000 tons of material, whereas landfilling creates only one. At the high end, computer reuse creates 296 jobs per 10,000 tons of material.



Jenna Isaacson is a woman on a mission. Her goal is to promote secondhand shopping. A self-proclaimed “thrift store addict,” Isaacson is on a massive road trip, traveling the United States on what she terms “a visual journey through America’s collective closets.” She isn’t investigating actual closets, of course. She’s stopping at a thrift store in every state. Learn more about Jenna’s mission at [www.allthriftystates.com](http://www.allthriftystates.com).

## Read More About It



*The Joy of Less, A Minimalist Living Guide: How to Declutter, Organize, and Simplify Your Life* by Francine Jay

*Live More, Want Less: 52 Ways to Find Order in Your Life* by Mary Carlomagno

*Organized Simplicity: The Clutter-Free Approach to Intentional Living* by Tsh Oxenreider

## QUOTES REQUOTED

Just by simply choosing healthful options every day, you can make a world of difference. You can improve your own health and the health of the environment. It’s just like choosing to change your lightbulbs or draw your drapes. Just like choosing to drive a greener car. Just like choosing to recycle and buy recycled. Just like choosing to reduce your energy needs and get your energy from greener sources. Just like choosing to eat locally grown, organic food. It’s all about choices. And you’ve got the power to choose.



Ed Begley, Jr.  
*Living Like Ed*



# what's up?

**Bulky Waste** – San Dimas residents in single-family homes may request free pickups for certain bulky items. Pickups are limited to six per year free of charge. Bulky items include electronic waste, such as computer monitors, CPUs, laptops, and televisions; furniture; large kitchen appliances, such as refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, etc.; used hot water heaters; extra refuse; and extra green waste.

To schedule your free bulky item pickups, call the Waste Management Customer Service Center at 800-266-7551 at least 24 hours in advance of your regular collection day. Additional bulky item pickups are available for an additional charge.

Residents who live in multi-family homes can also receive bulky item pickups for a nominal charge.



**Used Motor Oil** – On trash day, residents may place their used oil at the curbside in a tightly sealed container for the trash collectors to pick up. If you do not have a sealable container, you may pick one up free of charge from Public Works. The containers are available in 6-quart and 15-quart capacities. To schedule a pickup at the curb, please call Waste Management at 800-266-7551 at least 24 hours in advance of your regular collection.



**Yard Waste** – Yard waste is collected at the curb by Waste Management on the same day as trash and recycling collection. Place your yard waste, including grass clippings, leaves, brush, shrubbery prunings, sawdust, tree trimmings, and tree limbs smaller than 4" in diameter, into your green or burgundy cart. With questions, call Waste Management at 800-266-7551.

## We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Waste Management  
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Baldwin Park, CA 91706  
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Please recycle this publication  
after you have read it!

# Properly dispose of used “sharps”

Do you use sharps, such as syringes and lancets, at home to treat a medical condition? Do you know what to do with your sharps waste? Residents of San Dimas have three convenient options to safely and legally dispose of used needles, syringes, lancets, and other sharps.

Waste Management (WM), the City's residential refuse collector and recycling service provider, manages a Sharps Home Delivery Program that allows residents to use a special mail-back container to

dispose of needles properly. To participate in the program, residents should call WM at 800-266-7551 to request a free container, and a representative will deliver it to your home on the next collection day. Once it is filled to capacity, the resident simply mails the container to a sharps disposal facility using the pre-paid postage label provided. The first kit each year is free, but there is a \$5 fee for additional kits.

Filled containers may also be deposited into the appropriate collection box outside the Walnut Sheriff's Station at 21695 E. Valley Boulevard in Walnut. You can also dispose of unwanted or outdated

pharmaceuticals at the Sheriff's Station drop boxes.

Sharps in approved containers are also accepted at any of the S.A.F.E. Collection Centers, as well as at the Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic Waste drop-off events held regularly around the county. Visit [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com) or call 888-CLEAN-LA for more information about the collection centers and weekly drop-off events.

Please remember, state law makes it illegal to dispose of home-generated sharps waste in trash or recycling containers and requires that all sharps waste be transported to a collection center in an approved container.

# How frugal are you?

If you've been reading or listening to the business news, you've probably heard that the recession has made Americans more frugal. One result has been an upsurge in reuse. People are using things longer or finding new uses for items they already own. They are also trading, giving away, and buying and selling more used items.

How about you? Over the past few years, have you been using things longer? Have you joined groups like Freecycle, where residents give usable items away or get them for free? Have you done more of your shopping at thrift or secondhand stores?

If you haven't become a reuser or a reuse shopper, it's not too late. Reusing saves money and reduces waste—during bust and boom times!

Check out the San Dimas “Reduce, Reuse & Recycle Directory.” You can pick up a copy at City Hall, or go to [www.cityofsandimas.com](http://www.cityofsandimas.com). You'll find the guide, along with other information about reducing, reusing, and recycling, under Public Works Department and then Environmental Services.

# Prevent Storm Water Pollution

Winter rain may bring much-needed water to our area, but it also poses a serious health hazard when storm water becomes polluted, which transforms our beaches into giant dumping grounds.

During rainfall, wastes, such as litter, automotive fluids, construction debris, fertilizer, and pet droppings, left on our lawns, parking lots, and streets are washed into storm drains. Storm drains are designed to prevent flooding by carrying water away from developed areas quickly. However, this water is not filtered or treated, and eventually flows into our rivers and ocean.

Please do your part to reduce storm water pollution by following these simple and sensible practices:

- Pick up pet waste when you walk your pet and from your own yard. Deposit bagged pet waste in your black trash cart.
- Properly dispose of unwanted household

chemicals, used motor oil and filters, and old medications. For more information about proper disposal, as well as locations and hours, call 888-CLEAN-LA or visit [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com).

- Sweep your driveways and sidewalks to clean them, rather than using the

hose. Sweep the grit and organic debris into your lawn or garden. Pick up non-organic debris and put it into your black trash cart.

- Control erosion by using mulch or planting vegetation in erosion-prone areas of your yard.

The City maintains an every-other-week street sweeping schedule to keep our storm drain system flowing smoothly. Many catch basins in the City have inserts or screens to prevent trash and debris from entering the storm drain system, as well as to prevent animals from traveling through the drains and into our streets and neighborhoods. If you observe a catch basin in need of maintenance, call the Public Works Department at 909-394-6240.

To learn more about storm water pollution prevention, visit Los Angeles County's website at [www.ladpw.org/PRG/StormWater/](http://www.ladpw.org/PRG/StormWater/).



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