

Trash Talk

“Don’t Make a Mountain Out of a Landfill”

FALL 2020, October - December

Composting: A Different Kind of Recycling

Think of a plastic water bottle or a metal tuna fish can. Once they are empty, what do you do with them? Chances are, you make sure they are clean and dry, and you put them in your recycling container to be transformed into something else, like plastic playground equipment and steel bridges.

Now, think of a banana peel, coffee grounds, or a mound of fallen leaves. What can you do with them? What about recycling? Just like plastic bottles and metal cans, organic waste can be recycled into something valuable, not just sent to a landfill to take up space and release methane, which is a powerful greenhouse gas.



Composting, or recycling organic material, is the process of allowing the waste to decompose naturally and become a nutrient-rich soil amendment for use in home landscaping and gardening. It is like a multivitamin for your soil.

Getting started at home

Shasta County offers a free guide to help you get started composting at home on our website. Visit recycle.co.shasta.ca.us, then in the left-hand column under **Waste Reduction and Recycling**, select the “plus” sign next to **Residents**, then select **Home Composting**. There you can download our **Backyard Composting How-To Guide**. If you would like a hard copy, contact us at recycle@co.shasta.ca.us or (530) 225-5789 (supplies are limited).

Our composting guide includes:

- Essential elements to composting; moisture, air, and surface area;
- Using an open pile or a bin;
- What items to add to your pile and what to avoid;
- How to use compost when it is ready;

It also has a section on vermicomposting, the method of using worms to break down the organic waste materials.

Whatever techniques you choose, composting will help decrease the amount of organic waste that comprises 30% of what we throw away annually.

For additional information on composting, contact **Shasta College’s Master Gardeners Program** at (530) 242-2219.

A Friendly Reminder from Burney Disposal

Please be sure to bag all garbage before placing it in the can. If you are hauling it to the transfer station, securely tarp the load. By doing this, you will be helping to reduce windblown litter.

How Do I Get Rid Of...?

It’s fall or, what some may call, the beginning of Candy Season. Halloween is the kickoff, and it goes all the way through February. You may think you will eat it all, but there is always something leftover that you don’t find until next year.

Using our online “*How do I get rid of...?*” tool, find ways to dispose of uneaten candy besides just the garbage, like composting or donating.

For all types of waste, go to recycle.co.shasta.ca.us

Select your community.

Type in the item you want to get rid of, recycle, reduce, etc.

It’s easy.



Plastic Bottle Bird Feeder

Follow these simple instructions to create a water bottle bird feeder.

What you'll need:

One Empty 16.9 oz Plastic Water Bottle • One Wooden Mixing Spoon • Craft Knife
Birdseed • Funnel • String for Hanging

Step 1: Using the craft knife, make a ½-inch horizontal incision 1-inch from the base of the plastic bottle.



Step 2: Make a second ½-inch cut directly opposite to the first.



Step 3: Insert the spoon handle through the first cut. Then push it straight through the second cut, until the bowl of the spoon fits just inside of the bottle.



Step 4: Use the funnel to fill the bottle with birdseed.



Step 5: After the bottle is filled, birdseed will spill into the bowl of the spoon. If it does not, trim the plastic surrounding the hole.



Step 6: Make sure to replace the bottle cap when finished, then tie the string around the neck of the bottle for hanging.



Step 7: Your bird feeder is ready for hanging.



*Give more birds a chance at the birdseed by adding another wooden spoon. Repeat steps 1-3, starting about 2 inches above the first spoon. The spoons should cross one another and form a “+.”

Remember: When the bird feeder is worn out, and it's time for a new one, clean and dry the old bottle before recycling it.

Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping is the disposal of solid waste at a site other than a permitted facility such as a landfill or transfer station.

Dumping is against the law and can result in fines of up to \$2,500.

Report illegal dumping by calling **1-866-61-TRASH**, unless you see dumping in progress, then call dispatch at **(530) 245-6540**.

Provide as much information as possible such as the vehicle type and color, license plate number, description of person, location with address or cross street, property owner's name, and description of waste. Do not approach the person dumping waste. Investigators will respond to your report.

**DON'T TRASH
SHASTA!**
Report Illegal Dumping:
1-866-61-TRASH
(1-866-618-7274)

Join us on Facebook!

We are expanding our ability to reach you. Follow us on Facebook **@recycleshasta** for the latest information on waste disposal and reduction for residents, businesses, schools, and more.

Please direct newsletter comments to:

Shasta County Department of Resource Management
1855 Placer Street, Suite 200, Redding, CA 96001
recycle.co.shasta.ca.us
(530) 225-5789 or (800) 528-2850



Please direct disposal service calls to:

Burney Disposal Inc.
37484 Cornaz Drive B, Burney, CA 96013
burneydisposal.com
(530) 335-2723