



People • Service • Environment  
**LOS ALTOS GARBAGE COMPANY**  
 Proud to be Employee Owned

# The Connection

KEEPING US CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

Spring 2009  
 Los Altos

LAGCo Connection  
 650 Martin Avenue  
 Santa Clara, CA 95050


## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

**Los Altos Garbage Co.**  
 408-725-4020 or  
 650-961-8040  
 Fax 408-588-1102  
[www.losaltosgarbage.com](http://www.losaltosgarbage.com)

**Countywide Recycling Info**  
 800-533-8414  
[www.recyclestuff.org](http://www.recyclestuff.org)


**Home Composting Education Program**  
 408-918-4640  
[www.reducewaste.org](http://www.reducewaste.org)

**Online Recycling Resource**  
[www.Earth911.com](http://www.Earth911.com)

**SAVE THE DATE**   
**SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010**  
**Countywide Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off Event**

For more information, call the HHW Program  
 408-299-7300 or visit  
[www.hhw.org](http://www.hhw.org)



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## RECYCLING COUNTS AT SANTA RITA SCHOOL

Santa Rita School wants to help students develop life skills and is doing so through their **Character Counts Program**. The program looks at 6 pillars of character; **Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship**. Falling under the Citizenship character is the importance of protecting the environment, which is why everyone at Santa Rita School is so committed to recycling!

A program cannot be successful without the support of top administration but that's not a problem at Santa Rita. You see, Principal Alyssa Gallagher is a true believer in recycling and supports the



*PTA parent volunteer, Karen Bunya, monitors the recycling containers during lunch to make sure they aren't contaminated with garbage*

faculty, staff, students and volunteers, who all help make the recycling program a success.

Another reason the recycling program is so successful is because of their school-wide recycling message; **Think Before You Toss**. It's a simple, yet important message that reminds everyone to recycle.

One of the areas that Santa Rita focused on this year was the Hot Lunch Program. They worked with the Hot Lunch suppliers to provide food in "recyclable" containers, rather than disposable ones. Then they increased the educational component of it, so the empty containers would be tossed into the recycling cart instead of



*From left to right – Principal, Alyssa Gallagher, with students Leah Gaylord, Olivia Ward, Ryan Inouye, Mika Ng, Anabella Tenorio and Jesus Aguilar*

the garbage can. As a result of their efforts, Santa Rita has reduced their Hot Lunch waste stream by 50%!

Santa Rita has other programs, which help reduce their waste stream. They include the collection of plastic bags through Walmart's plastic bag recycling program; on-site composting in their school garden; and a **Cans for Cash Program** where they separately collect water bottles and bring them to a Buy-Back Center for the California Redemption Value (CRV). Last year, they made \$500.00 from the **Cans for Cash Program**, which helped to pay for special projects at the school.

Santa Rita School is doing an outstanding job of recycling and reducing their waste stream, and as a community we say "Thank you. Thank you for teaching our children that **Recycling Counts!**"



*From left to right – Students Alex Ward & Chase Bishop help with the recycling program by emptying classroom bins into the large recycling carts that are picked up by Los Altos Garbage Company*

# FOOD WASTE PILOT PROGRAM A SUCCESS AT WHOLE FOODS MARKET



Bob Davis, Green Mission Representative, stands proud and ready at the recycling station in front of the Whole Foods Market in Los Altos

When the Team Leaders of Whole Foods Market in Los Altos learned that going green with an organics program would actually cost them “extra” green (\$\$) in the process,

organic waste composted, rather than landfilled, isn't an issue. If anything, it's a testimony to their commitment to helping preserve the environment!

there was still no hesitation to do it. I guess that's because being green isn't a fad at Whole Foods; it's a **Core Value**. And a part of that core value is their **Wise Environmental Practice** to respect the environment and recycle, reuse, and reduce their waste wherever and whenever possible. So the fact that they pay a little more to have their

Since the start of the pilot program, back in October of 2008, Los Altos Garbage Company has helped Whole Foods divert over 110 tons of organic material from the landfill. The success of this program only goes to prove that great things can happen when you bring two companies together that are committed to recycling, in a community like Los Altos that cares about preserving the environment for future generations.



Ricardo Maldonado, Prepared Foods Department Team Leader, tosses kitchen scraps in the green bin for composting

## PAPER OR PLASTIC?



That's a question everyone hears at grocery stores. But bags of all types add up. Trips to the mall, hardware store, farmer's market and many other places add to the number of bags that Americans use every day and each of those bags have an environmental impact as well. One thing that everyone can do to lower their carbon footprint on our environment is to bring a reusable bag to the stores you frequent.

Reusable bags are a great and easy way to lower the amount of energy and resources that are used to make single-use bags. Many retail stores have reusable bags available for sale, and some even offer a discount each time you bring them to the store.

### Here's a few tips to remember:

- Return bags to your car after each trip to the store.
- Look for reusable bags made from recycled content. Help close the loop. ♻️
- Only buying a few items? Just carry them out by hand.
- Look for small reusable bags that fit easily into a purse or pocket for those quick trips to the market.
- Too many reusable bags? Give some to a friend or family member and spread the reuse message.

So the next time the store clerk asks if you would like paper or plastic, you can say “Neither one, thanks. I brought my own.”

## COMPOST WORKSHOPS SCHEDULE

### CUPERTINO

Quinlan Community Center  
10185 North Stelling Road  
Social Hall  
Saturday 10am – Noon  
October 3, November 7

### MOUNTAIN VIEW

Community Center  
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue  
Saturday 10am – Noon  
May 16, June 20, July 18,  
August 15, September 19

### SUNNYVALE COMMUNITY CENTER ARBORETUM

Heritage Garden Meeting Room  
550 E. Remington Dr.  
Registration: 408-730-7262 or  
visit [www.sunnyvalerecycles.org](http://www.sunnyvalerecycles.org)  
Saturdays 10am – Noon  
July 18, August 15, September 19



Please call the County's Rotline at 408-918-4640 or email [compost@aem.sccgov.org](mailto:compost@aem.sccgov.org) for additional workshop dates and locations or to pre-register (unless otherwise indicated above).

