

News and Information

on Community Recycling & Waste Services



The Sustainable Benician

Dedicated to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and empowering residents to do the same in creating a sustainable community.

2016 Eco Award Winners Presented to City Council

The City of Benicia and Republic Services presented the 2nd annual Eco Awards at the City Council meeting on Nov. 1st. The winners were chosen for promoting sustainability through conscientious business practices.



Dunlop Manufacturing, maker of electronic music effects and one of Benicia's largest employers invested in facility improvements that helped improve efficiency, including a modification of their existing air compressor system, installing water efficient fixtures for their bathrooms and in their glass cutting process. They improved recycling to cut trash by 50% and separately recycled over 6,000 lbs. of guitar wire in two years. They were one of the first businesses to participate in the City of Benicia Business Resource Incentive Program (BRIP) with their second project saving the city 15,000 gallons of water per year.

Bay Area Coffee has a twenty million lb. annual capacity for roasting beans. They substantially decreased their trash by recycling. They donate coffee husks as cage bedding, and in 2015-16, gave over 11,000 burlap bags to the community, including the Oakland Zoo, where they were stuffed and used as toys for the tigers.

Benicia High School has a well-kept campus with ample opportunity to recycle, partly due to Chuck Schauer, Custodial Services. The school's main kitchen, run by Food Services Director Tania Courtney, provides food for other Benicia schools. They were the first account in Benicia to add a food waste account. They also have a community garden with a rain water catchment system, and a student-built structure from green building materials managed by the Ech2O Academy students.

The winners were given trophies made of recycled glass, hand-blown by David Lindsay of Lindsay Art Glass, Benicia. The trophy bases are stone countertop samples donated from Remodel Me, Martinez and the Certificates of Appreciation were signed by Mayor Patterson.



Hand-blown glass trophies by David Lindsay

Photo (L to R): Mayor Elizabeth Patterson, Marie Knutson (Republic Services), Tania Courtney (Food Services Director, Benicia High School), Brianna Kleinschmidt (Principal, Benicia High School), and Jasmin Powell (Dunlop Manufacturing)

Cooking Oil Pickup

Still have used cooking oil from Thanksgiving? Call Customer Service at (707) 747-0608 for a door-to-door household hazardous waste pickup.

Compost Giveaway

Do you want to be on the email reminder list for the next compost giveaway? Do you have an idea or need for a class with environmental content? Let us know. Email Marie at MKnutson@RepublicServices.com



Plastic Bag Ban Update

Plastic bags, which are made from petroleum, can take centuries to fully biodegrade, and have become a major source of plastic litter. A study published in January by the group Ocean Conservancy identified plastic bags as one of the most hazardous types of plastic litter for marine mammals, which get tangled up in the bags or mistake them for prey and eat them.

Last year, California passed a law banning stores from giving out plastic bags for free. It was the first statewide ban of its kind in the country. It was set to take effect this July, but the plastic bag industry stopped that from happening by financing a ballot measure to repeal the ban.

On the November ballot, Proposition 65 redirected money collected by grocery and other retail stores through the mandated sale of carryout bags into a special fund for environmental projects. This

did not pass. The opposition to 65 said most retailers where the ban was in effect were not earning money from the ten cents per bag, but were still losing money or breaking even with the purchase of reusable bags.

Proposition 67 passed and upheld the statute that prohibits grocery and other stores from providing customers with single-use plastic bags or paper carryout bags, but permits the sale of recycled paper or reusable bags.

The ban takes effect when the California Secretary of State certifies the election on Dec. 16th. We will look to the State for how this will be implemented in Benicia. Until then, bringing your own reusable bags is the best solution.

—Takepart.com and County Official Ballot



The DEA National Rx Drug Take-Back Day in October at the Benicia Police Station had 172 participants and resulted in 350 lbs. of prescription drugs collected. Thank you, Benicia Police Department! *Watch for the next take-back event in spring 2017.*

Coastal Cleanup 2016

Volunteers gathered hundreds of tons of trash at beaches and inland waterways, cleaning up over 900 sites in 54 of California's 58 counties, the largest collection of sites in the cleanup's history. Cleanups took place up and down the coast, from the Oregon to Mexico border and as far inland as Lake Tahoe.

California's event is part of the International Coastal Cleanup organized by Ocean Conservancy. With 70% of the cleanup sites reporting, the statewide count stood at 52,191 volunteers. Those volunteers picked up 541,431 pounds of trash and an additional 53,156 pounds of recyclable materials, for a total of 594,586 pounds or 297 tons.

—California Coastal Commission



Take My Tree, Please

Boy Scouts' Christmas Tree Recycling Project

Take advantage of this convenient community service and fund raiser from Benicia's Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venture Crew. This project is run in full cooperation with the City of Benicia and Republic Services. The trees are chipped, and used for ground cover on City properties. You can drop off your tree or you can register for pickup of your tree at your home or business. Donations welcome! (\$7.00 suggested).

Drop-off & Pick-up days: Saturday December 31 Sunday January 1 Monday January 2 Saturday January 7 Sunday January 8	Hours of Operation: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Locations: Benicia Community Park (behind Matthew Turner School) or First Baptist Church (on Southampton Rd.) Please no trees dropped off after 3:30 p.m. Flocked Trees Are Accepted
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Register for pickup at beniciascouts.org or call the tree recycle hotline (707) 551-4520. Appointments required for pickup. Tree Recycling pickup dates are same as drop-off dates. Flocked Trees Are Accepted.

Missed the Boy Scouts' pickup?

Flocked, painted, or artificial flocked trees can be collected curbside for \$40 per tree with an appointment scheduled in advance.

For questions call (707) 747-0608.

Important information for placing trees in your green yard waste cart:

- No flocked trees
- Branches must be 3 inches or less in diameter and 3 feet or less in length
- Remove tree stand
- Lid must close
- No plastic bags, lights, ornaments, tinsel, nails, or tree stands.

