

RECYCLE & REVIEW

People • Service • Environment

SAN BRUNO GARBAGE CO., INC.



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A Subsidiary of Norcal Waste Systems, Inc.

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RECYCLING STARS SHINE IN SAN BRUNO

For the Breitenstein Family, mom Karen and daughter Natalie, recycling isn't just something they do...*it's what they believe in.* And this mother-daughter team helps teach others how to recycle too, both at work and at home.

Karen goes the extra mile to encourage her neighbors to recycle. She posts recycling guidelines at her apartment complex, which helps educate them about how to recycle properly. She even offers to call Salvation Army for neighbors who have items that can be donated rather than thrown away.

Natalie, who learned the importance of recycling from her mom, shares that knowledge with her fellow employees at the Gap in San Bruno. Natalie oversees the recycling program there and makes sure that everyone understands what can be recycled, such as paper, cardboard, bottles & cans, toner cartridges, batteries and electronic waste. She also makes sure that they have the right containers, so it's easy for them to recycle.

Karen and Natalie are active members of San Bruno Freecycle™, an online resource that let's you give and receive usable items and keep them out of the landfill. You'll also see both ladies using their recycling *Buddy Bags* at home. Karen says that the *Buddy Bags* make it easier to recycle because they are large enough to hold all of her recyclables, while Natalie likes how the *Buddy Bags* are durable and fit nicely beside her trash can.

Karen says "*I think recycling is important for the future of our children and our children's children.*" I suppose that's why both Karen and Natalie have taught recycling to the next generation of their family, Natalie's daughter Jacqueline, who attends John Muir Elementary School in San Bruno.

There's no doubt recycling is a family affair for the Breitenstein's. They set a good example for all of us about how easy it is to reduce waste and that it's important to teach others about recycling. Thank you Karen and Natalie for being **Shining Stars of Recycling** in San Bruno!



SCAVENGING...it affects everyone!

It's the wee hours of the morning and you're tucked under the covers trying to get a few more minutes of sleep before the alarm clock goes off when suddenly, you hear a noise outside your window. What can it be? Maybe it's your neighbor's pet. It could be a raccoon, looking for food. Unfortunately, it's a stranger rummaging through your recycling cart looking for valuable CRV materials, like soda cans and water bottles.

Scavenging is a problem. It's also against the law. The problem isn't just here in San Bruno. It's an issue throughout California, which is why Governor Schwarzenegger signed a new Anti-Scavenging Bill, Assembly Bill (AB) 1778.

AB 1778 requires scrap yards that buy \$100.00 or more of CRV bottles and cans or \$50.00 or more of newsprint, to document transactions and to pay for these materials by check. AB 1778 is designed to reduce organized recycling theft in California.

Locally, scavenging recyclables is a violation of San Bruno Municipal Code Section 10.22.140. Violators may be prosecuted and are subject to a fine. Truth be told, scavengers aren't stealing from San Bruno Garbage Company, they're stealing from the residents and business owners of San Bruno, because 100% of the revenue generated from the sale of recyclables goes

Celebrate Earth Day by participating in
**SAN BRUNO'S ANNUAL
Clean Your Files Week
APRIL 20 - 24**

Recycle your home and office paper by placing it in your single-stream recycling cart for collection on your regular service day. For large quantities of paper, please call to schedule an "extra" pickup, or place paper in paper bags or boxes and set next to your recycling cart.

Please put shredded paper in paper bags, seal with tape or staples, label as "shredded paper", then place in your recycling cart.

Don't forget that phone books are recyclable too! Place them in your blue cart for recycling.



For more information, please call San Bruno Garbage Company at **650-583-8536** or visit us online at www.sanbrunogarbage.com

directly back to the rate payers in the form of lower service rates.

Last fall, San Bruno Garbage Company launched an anti-scavenging campaign, providing every resident with a "NO SCAVENGING" decal to place on their recycling carts. The decals warn potential scavengers of the Municipal Code violation and include the non emergency phone number for the San Bruno Police Department (650-616-7100).

So the next time you see someone scavenging through a recycling cart or bin, remember that it *is* a crime and you *can* do something about it.

SEE IT, HEAR IT, REPORT IT!



Operation Clean Sweep



Saturday, May 2, 2009

Join San Bruno Garbage Company and the City of San Bruno's Beautification Task Force for **Operation Clean Sweep**, an annual citywide cleanup event taking place on **Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. – noon.**

Last year, 227 volunteers participated, collecting 2,800 pounds of garbage and 225 pounds of recycling! This year's event will include litter and recycling cleanups as well as planting and painting projects!

Check-in begins at 9:00 a.m. at San Bruno City Park near the Rotary Pavilion (Gazebo).

All participants will be treated to a Volunteer Appreciation BBQ, sponsored by San Bruno Garbage Company and receive a free reusable water bottle from the San Bruno Beautification Task Force!

For information call the Beautification Task Force hotline at **650-616-7145** or to register, visit www.sanbruno.ca.gov.

Q: To help save energy, I've switched the old light bulbs in my home with new Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs. When these burn out, can I throw them in the garbage?



A: Although regular incandescent light bulbs can be thrown in the garbage, Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) are considered Universal Waste, and therefore must be disposed of properly.

San Bruno Garbage Company offers San Bruno residents a free drop-off program for Universal Waste at our Transfer Station, located at 101 Tanforan Avenue. Drop Off hours are:

**Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and
Tuesdays & Thursdays, from 10:00 a.m. – noon**

For a complete list of drop-off locations throughout San Mateo County, visit www.flowstobay.org/cs_fluorescentbulbs.php

Q: Can I put food and other compostables into my green yard waste cart?



A: The green cart is only for the collection of yard waste, such as leaves, branches and grass clippings. However, you can compost your food scraps at



home with either a biostack compost bin or vermicompost (worm) bin. Both types of bins are available at a discounted rate from the County of San Mateo. The County also offers free compost workshops, which are held at the San

Bruno Recreation Center. To register for a compost class, call **650-616-7180** or visit www.RecycleWorks.org.

Q: I saw the garbage man emptying my recycling and garbage carts into the same truck. How are the materials being kept separate?



A: Garbage and recycling are being collected in new semi-automated split-body trucks. These trucks are designed with two separate compartments, so whether it's two garbage carts, two recycling carts, or one of each, the driver can control which compartment the carts are emptied into.

The split-body trucks also provide improved route efficiencies, which includes less vehicles on the street, decreased road impacts and lower fuel costs. And since the garbage and recycling are being picked up together, residents are able to put both carts away at the same time!

Help Keep San Bruno Clean

Litter doesn't just affect our streets. Litter affects the environment and can be toxic to marine life as it finds its way to creeks, wetlands, beaches and the Bay.

Litter comes in many forms too. From illegal dumping of household waste, construction debris and hazardous materials, to cigarette butts tossed out of car windows.

Litter is a significant problem in California. Fortunately, there are ways that you can help prevent litter in San Bruno. The following are some suggestions:

- Keep a small bag in your car for garbage
- Bag your trash before you place it in your garbage cart, to help prevent loose materials from blowing out on windy days or when being emptied
- Overflowing carts can cause litter and encourages scavenging by animals, so make sure the lids on your garbage and recycling carts are closed
- Use reusable bags when you go to the store, instead of plastic bags, which are a major source of litter
- Properly dispose of trash in public receptacles, when walking or bicycling

Another way that you can help reduce litter is to take part in **Operation Clean Sweep**, an annual volunteer event that promotes litter prevention and recycling. **Operation Clean Sweep** is a great project for families and neighbors and provides an opportunity to be a part of the solution.





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What's the Buzz?

San Bruno Garbage Company Partners with Non-Profit to Help Preserve the Environment

In May 2008, San Bruno Garbage Company took their commitment to the environment one step further when they partnered with St. Vincent de Paul and implemented a Reuse Program for household goods. Since then, San Bruno Garbage Company has diverted over 20,000 pounds of materials from the landfill!

The Reuse Program is for household items that are in "reusable" condition, such as tables, chairs, clothing, dishes, pots, pans and books. Most of the materials come from the residential on-call collections and special pickups. The Reuse Program is a win-win situation, because it not only reduces the amount of materials going to the landfill, it also provides essential items for those in need.

