

THE RECYCLE WRAP



Monterey Regional Waste Management District
 Student Eco-Newsletter • Spring 2016
 "It's a Small Planet — Recycle"



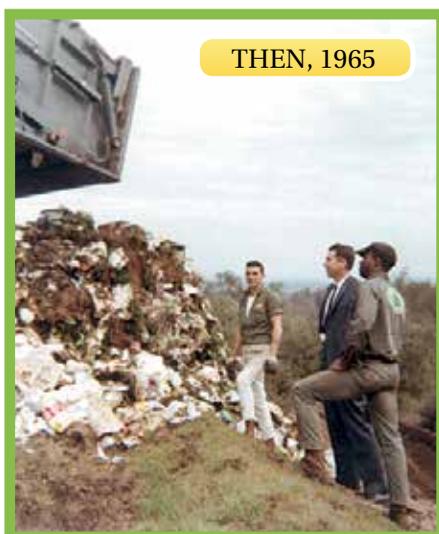
MRWMD turns 65 years old in 2016!

The Monterey Regional Waste Management District was formed as a public agency in 1951 to help our local communities safely dispose of their trash (sometimes called "municipal solid waste"). The first landfill MRWMD operated was near Laguna Seca. In 1965, the Monterey Peninsula Landfill in Marina opened. It is designed to hold 56 million tons of trash. As of 2016, 10 million tons of waste have been disposed. Engineers figure that it will take more than 100 years to fill.

In 65 years, we have really grown up. Along with taking care of the waste that comes from your homes, schools, and businesses, we have found lots of ways to turn waste into a resource. (A resource is something that can be useful, either to create new products or power.) We collect items like broken computers, batteries, mattresses, and motor oil, and send them to companies that specialize in recycling these materials, turning them into new goods.

We recycle things on our site like wood pallets and concrete, and compost everything from grass clippings to food scraps from restaurants and schools. We even make energy from the food scraps in a special building called an Anaerobic Digestion Unit.

And even though 65 years may seem kind of old, we plan to be around for a long time, growing and getting even better at helping our communities reduce, reuse, and recycle. We will also turn more things into important resources, like fuel for trash trucks and energy to turn waste water into clean water.



Monterey Peninsula Landfill opens.



MRWMD uses state-of-the-art technology to turn waste into energy.

A toy seahorse stars in movie at landfill

Marine scientist and filmmaker, Dr. Tierney Thys, contacted us in January with an unusual request. She wanted to film a small plastic toy seahorse, named "Horsea," visiting the recycling and reuse facilities at MRWMD.

The seahorse was found in the Mediterranean Sea by scientists who were studying plastic pollution. So Dr. Thys, who studies the health of our oceans and the effect of plastics on the lives and surroundings (or "habitats") of sea creatures, decided that Horsea would be a great main character in a film about plastics and pollution.

Local fifth graders Marina Hobson and Riley Speidel interviewed Dr. Thys about her film. She told them, "The film traces the amazing journey of a plastic seahorse from the beach, into the sea and plankton, and eventually back to land." At sea, Horsea learns that 8 million tons of plastics enter the ocean each year.

"After he returns to land, he embarks on another journey to see how plastic can be transformed into all sorts of useful objects, from building supplies and backpacks to artwork and more," she said. "His journey includes a visit to the Monterey Regional Waste Management District's Materials Recovery Facility and the Carmel River School plastic cap mural (with 16,000 caps collected and made into art by elementary school kids)."

The film will be part of a TED-Ed series called *Stories from the Sea* that Dr. Thys is producing for students and teachers. Dr. Thys's films have won many awards in festivals around the world. You can see her last one at: www.ted.com/talks/the_secret_life_of_plankton.

Watch for the announcement about the new film at her website: <http://oceansunfish.org>.



Horsea visits the MRWMD Materials Recovery Facility sorting line.

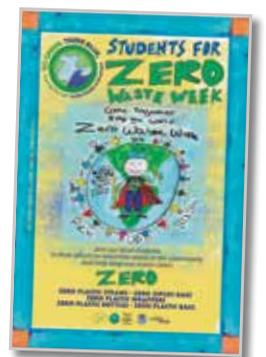
Join the challenge to make less trash!

Join K-12 students across the nation and take part in the 4th annual "Students for ZERO WASTE WEEK" (ZWW). This is a great opportunity to be ocean caretakers (or "stewards") and to learn how to reduce waste and ocean pollution.

Schools choose a week to take part between March 21 and April 22, and choose activities that work best for your school and/or community. Here are some examples you might like to consider:

- Perform a skit about litter.
- Make art with a "message" using packaging that would be thrown away.
- Make a zero waste lunch kit with reusable sandwich, drink, and snack containers.
- Have a paperless day at school.
- Ask your favorite restaurant to stop using plastic straws and offer paper straws only when people ask for them.

Learn more about Zero Waste Week and find free activities at: http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean_guardian/zero-waste-week. To register, email: alysa.nally@noaa.gov.



Come visit us to see what we have accomplished in our 65 years. See the back page for tour information.



Monterey Regional Waste Management District

14201 Del Monte Blvd., Marina, CA 93933
 831-384-5313 | www.mrwmd.org





It Is a Small Planet,
Recycle!



Poems for Our Planet

Carmel River Elementary School fifth grader, Riley Mabry, shared her powerful poem about the beauty and problems of our planet during a community event last fall. The audience was moved emotionally by her words. Students and educators of her school district (Carmel Unified School District) were being recognized for being good caretakers of our planet's oceans. They have taken action to reduce waste, recycle more, compost, and restore the natural surroundings at their schools. Riley's poem captured the importance of why they are making the changes and doing the work to take care of our planet. Her poem was heard by many, including Assemblyman Sam Farr, and read by thousands in our local newspaper.

Let Riley's poem inspire you in writing your own poem for the planet.

Fix the Problem

By Riley Mabry

A beauty
Sparkling in the sunshine
White foam
Upon her soft skin
Supporting so much
Elegant life
Thriving beneath her waves

So why
Is it that mankind looks upon this
Carpet of blue
Wrapped around the world
As so admirable
So graceful
So bewitching,
Yet treats it
So Carelessly

Is there a way
To fix this?
It's up to you. Because you have the power.
Use it.



Student poet, Riley Mabry, and her friend show off the bottle cap mural at Carmel River School.

Try to write a haiku. They're fun and can send a powerful message. Haiku, which originated in Japan, is a short, patterned poem with just three lines and 17 syllables. (Five syllables in the first and last lines and seven in the middle line.) Here is an example of a recycling haiku:

We can recycle.
Bottles can be turned to fleece.
Warms you, not our earth

Share your poem for the planet with us. Send it to: kherring@mrwmd.org.

Invite El Puro and Ruby the Sea Turtle to your school

Local organizations including The Stormwater Education Alliance (SEA), Save the Whales, and Waste Management have joined MRWMD to bring a new FREE assembly program to K-6 schools in the MRWMD service area.

The assembly features a marine biologist, a recycling educator, and Ruby the Turtle, and presents El Puro, El Luchador de Consecuencias, a hero for our planet.

You'll learn about where your garbage goes and how litter affects land and sea. You will get to see your teachers participate in the 3R challenge and learn about the incredible journey of the leatherback sea turtle, a 100 million-year-old species that now could vanish.

And there will be a special appearance by the superhero, El Puro, who will show you how even a little litter has large consequences for our communities and marine life.

Are you interested in having this fun assembly at your school? Ask your teacher or principal to email: kherring@mrwmd.org. The new assembly program will be available during the 2016-2017 school year.



Be part of the solution to pollution

1. Does your teacher have an Instagram account? If so, you can take part in Litterati. It's easy. You take a picture of litter you pick up and post it on Instagram with #Litterati. Your picture becomes part of a "digital landfill" and helps people who study litter. Check it out at: www.litterati.org.
2. Take part in a beach or neighborhood clean up with your friends and family. Check these websites for upcoming cleanup dates: www.saveourshores.org/volunteer • www.surfridermonterey.weebly.com





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Remade art

MRWMD is excited to host three college students from California State University, Monterey Bay this spring as part of the new **Artist in Residency** program. Alberto Araujo, Jessica Lara, and Ben Ward are all visual art students. They will find items like furniture, wood, metal, and electronics that are dropped off for reuse, recycling, or disposal and turn these objects into sculptures! Visitors to MRWMD will be able to watch the artists working in their "studio" at the Last Chance Mercantile. Their work will also be shared on the MRWMD Facebook page, and the public will be invited to an exhibit of their work in May.



Recycled lamp created by student artist Jessica Lara.

Students turn containers into science camp money

Monterey's La Mesa Elementary School fifth graders conducted a second annual recycling drive. In one month, they raised \$574.15 for science camp. During their recycling drive, the fifth graders, with help from the PTA, conducted a contest between classes, encouraging students to bring California Redemption Value (CRV) containers from home. The class collecting the most containers won an ice cream party. The students borrowed recycling containers from MRWMD and redeemed the bottles and cans collected at the MRWMD Buy Back Center, located behind the Last Chance Mercantile.

Elicia Arredondo, Recycle Club President said, "Not only did this fundraiser help us raise money for science camp, but it also showed us how fun it can be to do our part in saving the environment one bottle at a time. With the help of every single class at La Mesa Elementary, we prevented almost 11,000 bottles and cans from going into the dump."

The benefits weren't just to the environment. Elicia continued, "This fundraiser really brought our class closer together and showed us how to work as a team, having us bring in bottles and cans as a class and reaching a common goal."



If you would like to organize a recycling drive at your school, contact: kherring@mrwmd.org.

MRWMD's Buy Back Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Recycled Robots

Young students from Robert Down Elementary School used their creative ideas and engineering skills to build robots from things that came out of their recycle bin. These students' robots show us that we can turn one person's trash into something fun or helpful.

We help reduce waste when we:

- Buy goods with little or no packaging.
- Recycle what we can.
- Repurpose or create new things with recycled articles.



Show Us!

We'd like to share it.

Have you made art or helpful things out of recycled material or something that might have otherwise been thrown away? MRWMD invites you to share your creations, your teacher's, or your classmates' by sending us a photo of the creation. We would love to see it and share your good ideas.

You can send pictures and a short description to: kherring@mrwmd.org. You can also post it on our Facebook page or mail a picture to: P.O. Box 1670, Marina, CA 93933.

Visit MRWMD

A student and teacher favorite

Suggest a tour to your teacher and see and learn more about MRWMD's award-winning programs that help make every day Earth Day. MRWMD tours are designed for students from third grade through college. Tours are free to schools in the MRWMD service area. MRWMD can even help pay for the bus. Ask your teacher to call 831-375-4454 or to look for more information at: www.mrwmd.org.

Visit on Saturdays with your family. Drop off your recyclables or trash or, even more fun, shop at the Last Chance Mercantile or attend a Compost Workshop.

See the big machines at work when you tour the MRWMD Landfill and Resource Recovery Facilities.

Students cheer on adults during a 3R challenge, one of the fun tour activities.



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