

# REDUCE, REUSE, RETHINK BURBANK

PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER



## How to purge (most) plastic bags from your home

Burbank residents take home approximately 63 million plastic shopping bags every year and fewer than 5% of those are recycled. Communities that reduce plastic bags on a grand scale also help shrink litter on streets and in landscapes, in rivers and in our oceans. Here are some suggestions for reducing plastic carry-out bags:

- Reuse the plastic shopping bags you already have, then recycle them when they're worn out.
- Use long-lasting, washable storage containers in place of disposable zippered bags.
- Don't line trash cans that receive mostly dry waste, such as those in the bedroom, bathroom, and office.
- Keep your trash cans clean by wrapping wet waste in other bags, such as those that held pet food, bread, chips, or produce, or in newspapers.
- Leave a reusable garment bag at the dry cleaner when dropping off clothes.
- Bring light cloth or net bags when shopping for produce.
- Pick up pet waste with newspaper, ads, or junk mail. Bags from bread,

newspapers, and produce also work.

- Keep reusable bags in the car and within sight. It might take a month to master your new bag-carrying habit.
- Practice the art of declining bags before the checker starts bagging. A few items will fit in your hands, a purse, or a backpack, or can be pushed to the car in the cart.
- Buy larger packages to avoid single-serve portions. You'll reduce unnecessary plastics and bags.

Be mindful! New habits can reduce bags by 90%.

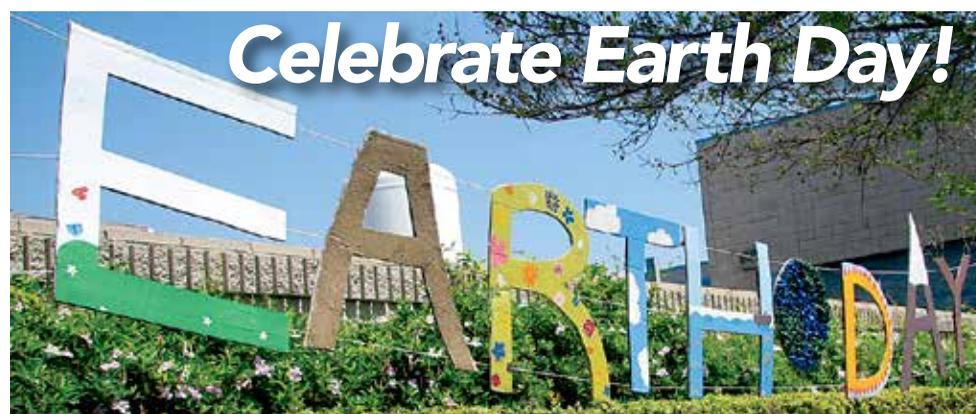
Of course, some plastic bags will still find their way into your home. Remember that plastic bags, bubble wrap, zippered bags, or shrink wrap should NOT go into curbside recycling carts. Plastic films tangle in spinning recycling machinery, slow the sorting, cause excessive wear, and increase friction which can result in fires. To solve the tangling problems at recycling facilities, compress plastic film into plastic bags, tie them shut, and drop them in the collection bins at large grocery stores or in the dedicated drop-off bin at the Burbank Recycle Center.



PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Industry, CA  
Permit no. 4166  
ECRWSS

Postal Customer

Burbank Recycle Center  
500 South Flower St.  
Burbank, CA 91502



## Celebrate Earth Day!

Join us for the Earth Day celebration at the Downtown Burbank Arts Festival on Saturday, April 19, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The festival will be held on San Fernando Road, between Magnolia and Angelino.

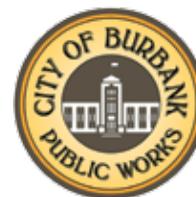
Enjoy live music and hundreds of artists offering thousands of handmade, one-of-a-kind paintings, sculptures, photographs,



jewelry, ceramics, and woodwork. The Earth Day event on Palm Ave. will include family activities and resources to help green your life from top to bottom. Start your day off right by biking, walking, carpooling, or riding the bus to the festival!

For more information, visit [www.burbankrecycle.org](http://www.burbankrecycle.org).

Hosted by



## What Kept the Burbank Recycle Center Busy in 2013?

- Led 19 tours of the Recycle Center for students and residents.
- Provided recycling at 17 school, City, and community events.
- Presented information on reducing, reusing, and recycling to 10 schools, business organizations, and civic groups.
- Provided composting and recycling at 10 Zero Waste events, including Starlight Bowl concerts.
- Hosted 13 compost workshops.
- Held 3 "garden mixers" at elementary schools.
- Hosted Earth Day, collected bicycles for Bike Angels, filmed and aired TV 6 videos...and oh-so-much more!



Old bikes can be dropped off at the Burbank Recycle Center, 500 S. Flower Street, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Burbank Bike Angels, a non-profit group, repairs and restores donated bikes to their previous shiny glory. The restored bikes go to less fortunate children at Christmas through the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. To learn more, call 818-238-3900.

Photo credit: www.RobertPaetz.com

## The 25th Annual La Gran Limpieza



Volunteer with Friends of the Los Angeles River at the 25th Annual La Gran Limpieza: The Great Los Angeles River CleanUp. You can choose from three river cleanup days in April and May at various sites across Los Angeles County. Our local river cleanup site is the Bette Davis Picnic Area in Griffith Park, where Riverside, Victory, and Sonora meet.

For information about volunteer

registration or group reservations, call 323-223-0585 or visit [www.folar.org](http://www.folar.org). Youth must be accompanied by an adult; the recommended age is 9 and above.

On the day of the cleanup, wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and sun protection. Dress for getting dirty, and bring a water container and rubber boots, if available. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

## Before hiring a plumber for sewer work

The sewer lateral runs from your house to the public sewer main, which is under the street, alley, or easement behind your home. Most residents don't give it much thought until there are backup problems. However, property owners are responsible for cleaning and maintaining the sewer lateral.

If you have a sewer lateral problem, here's what you need to know before you hire a plumber:

- Know your responsibility by checking the Burbank Municipal Code Sections 8-1-107, 8-1-312, and 8-1-313: [www.codepublishing.com/ca/burbank](http://www.codepublishing.com/ca/burbank).
- Understand your options and the methods used to clean, repair, or replace your sewer lateral. You can find details at the City's website, [www.burbankca.gov/](http://www.burbankca.gov/)



departments / public-works / sewer-lateral-user-rebate-program, or call 818-238-3915.

- Review plumber evaluations posted on the City's website before going to the Yellow Pages or doing an online search for a plumber.
- If possible, get quotes from three plumbers, including a video inspection.
- To be eligible for the City's Sewer Lateral User Rebate Program (SLURP), follow the steps outlined at the City's website.

### City of Burbank

Mayor: Emily Gabel-Luddy  
Vice Mayor: Dr. David Gordon  
Council Members:  
Gary Bric  
Bob Frutos  
Jess Talamantes

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### Public Works Customer Service

Public Works Field Services:  
818-238-3800  
Distribution and collection of trash, green waste, and recycling bins and carts

Bulky Item Pickup: 818-238-3805  
To request pickup of oversized furniture and appliances only



Burbank Recycle Center  
500 South Flower Street, 91502

Hours:  
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Saturday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.  
(Closed Sunday)

[www.burbankrecycle.org](http://www.burbankrecycle.org)

Recycle Center: 818-238-3900  
Recycling, donation options, hazardous waste, composting



[www.facebook.com/BurbankRecycle](http://www.facebook.com/BurbankRecycle)

## Protect our local waterways

As rainwater heads toward storm drains, it captures litter, chemicals, and other materials in its path. Stormwater is not treated, so, ultimately, all of these things flow to the ocean.

Common stormwater pollution includes:

- Street litter (cigarette butts, cups, and plastic bags)
- Animal waste
- Landscaping waste (soil, leaves, grass clippings, tree trimmings, fertilizers, and garden chemicals)
- Runoff water from broken sprinklers, overwatering, and hosing down driveways

Here are some things you can do to keep our waterways and ocean clean:

- Dispose of trash and cigarettes properly, and encourage others to do the same.
- Pick up after your pet, and put the waste into your trash container.
- Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers and pesticides. Carefully follow label directions so that you don't apply too much. Keep applications away from ditches, gutters, and storm drains. Store chemicals in a covered area.
- Prevent leaves, clippings, and prunings from being blown, swept, or hosed into the street, gutter, or storm drain. Place these wastes in closed collection containers or compost bins.
- Conserve water and prevent runoff with drip-irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems.



- Don't clean paint brushes or paint containers in the street, gutter, or storm drain. Instead, paint out brushes and rollers until nearly dry. Water-based brushes can be rinsed in the sink. Clean oil-based paint from brushes with thinner, then filter it or let it settle for later use. Take unusable paint thinner to a household hazardous waste collection location (see Page 4 for details).

For more information, please visit [www.burbankca.gov/departments/public-works/stormwater](http://www.burbankca.gov/departments/public-works/stormwater).

## Growing Burbank's urban forest

Trees store carbon, produce oxygen, filter water, and help reduce runoff and erosion. They also provide food and habitat for wildlife, mark the seasons, create a sense of calm and reduce violence, increase property value, muffle sound, absorb dust, buffer wind, and block UV rays. Burbank offers two shade tree programs that will beautify and cool your property.



### Made In The Shade

Burbank Water and Power provides free trees to increase shade for homes and businesses and decrease cooling costs. Properly placed trees can reduce air conditioning costs while beautifying your property and our community. Burbank residents living in single-family homes can receive up to three free trees. Burbank businesses and multi-family properties can receive up to 20 free trees. To participate in this program, call 818-957-8196 to schedule an on-site consultation. A professional consultant will help you select the best trees and planting locations for your property.



*Always There for You!*



### Parkway Trees

Burbank's Forestry Services Section offers free parkway tree planting services to beautify our community. Call 818-238-5304 to have up to two trees planted in front of your home, business, or apartment building. To help ensure that the trees flourish, property owners must commit to watering and caring for each tree.

# Greening your landscape

Burbank yard clippings are collected weekly in green carts and trucked 50 miles to a compost facility where they are turned into a rich soil amendment. Sounds great, right? But collections, hauling, and composting operations cost a great deal of money and add to air emissions, traffic congestion, and vehicle wear. To minimize the number of stops on routes, residents are asked to set out green carts only when they are full.

The biggest savings, however, occur when residents keep their clippings on the lawn, mulch their leaves, and compost the rest. Some residents have replaced their lawns with native plants that sip rather than gulp water. Native landscapes are beautiful and fragrant, plus they attract butterflies, birds, and pollinators.



## Grasscycling

The most efficient way to recycle grass clippings is by simply removing the mower's grass catcher and letting the clippings fall back onto the lawn. City parks, schools, and the DeBell Golf Course all leave the grass clippings on the turf. The benefits of grasscycling include:

- Nitrogen and minerals return to the soil.
- Synthesized fertilizers can be reduced.
- Moisture is returned and retained in soils that are high in organic matter.
- Time is saved by not needing to empty the grass catcher or push the heavy, grass-laden green cart to the curb and back each week.

If you would like more information about the benefits of grasscycling, log onto [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/GrassCycling](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/GrassCycling), or call the Recycle Center at 818-238-3900. Homeowners and property managers can encourage their gardeners to grasscycle, mulch, and compost.

## Backyard Composting

Composting can dramatically reduce the yard clippings going into your green cart. The Burbank Recycle Center offers compost workshops to help you turn yard clippings and kitchen scraps into nutritious dark soil for your garden. These upcoming compost workshops are free:

- Wednesday, April 30
- Wednesday, May 14
- Saturday, May 17
- Wednesday, May 28

For locations and times, visit [www.burbankrecycle.org](http://www.burbankrecycle.org) or call 818-238-3900.

Compost bins are available to Burbank residents at workshops and throughout the year at the Burbank Recycle Center. If you are ready to start composting, don't wait for a workshop—stop by and pick up your bin!



## Free Wood Chips

Wood chip mulch slows evaporation, suppresses weeds, and slowly releases nutrients to your soil as it breaks down. Free wood chips are available for pickup on a first-come, first-served basis at Gross, McCambridge, and Izay parks. You can shovel and haul as much as you need. If you want a full truckload dropped in your driveway, call Burbank's Forestry Services Section at 818-238-5304 to make a request.



## Native Landscapes

- Guide yourself through 40 of the region's most beautiful and inspiring home landscapes during the Native Plant Garden Tour on April 5-6. Meet garden owners, designers, knowledgeable docents, and fellow gardeners at each location. This tour is organized by the Theodore Payne Foundation, a non-profit California native plant nursery and education center. For details, visit [www.nativeplantgardentour.org](http://www.nativeplantgardentour.org).
- Burbank Water and Power (BWP) offers the Go Native incentive program to customers who convert their water-guzzling lawns to native landscapes. Residential customers can receive a rebate of \$2.00 per square foot and commercial customers receive \$1.00 per square foot. There is no maximum limit on the incentive, but projects must be at least 250 square feet. Projects can be completed in front, side, and back yards, as well as parkways, but must replace living turf. Yards without living turf or those that have already been converted do not qualify, and incentives are subject to eligibility and availability. For more information, visit [www.BurbankWaterAndPower.com](http://www.BurbankWaterAndPower.com) and click on "Go Native."
- BWP also offers landscaping workshops that focus on a holistic and native approach to landscaping. Workshops will be held:
  - Saturday, April 12
  - Saturday, May 3
  - Saturday, June 7
  - Saturday, July 12
  - Saturday, September 13
 Reservations are required and the workshops fill up quickly, so call BWP Conservation Services at 818-238-3730 right away to reserve your spot.
- The Burbank Adult School also offers eco-friendly landscaping classes. You can learn how to plan and install residential landscapes with an emphasis on sustainable design concepts, irrigation, maintenance, and repair. The next class will begin this fall. Visit [www.burbankusd.org/BAS](http://www.burbankusd.org/BAS) for details.



Learn  
more

### Grasscycling

[www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/GrassCycling](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/GrassCycling)

### Composting

[www.burbankrecycle.org](http://www.burbankrecycle.org) – Click "Composting Program"

### BWP Go Native!

[www.burbankwaterandpower.com/incentives-for-residents/go-native](http://www.burbankwaterandpower.com/incentives-for-residents/go-native)

### Water-Wise Gardening

[www.burbank.watersavingplants.com](http://www.burbank.watersavingplants.com)

### Master Gardener Program

[http://celosangeles.ucanr.edu/UC\\_Master\\_Gardener\\_Program](http://celosangeles.ucanr.edu/UC_Master_Gardener_Program)

### Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers & Native Plants

[www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org)

# what's up?

Redeem your California Redemption Value (CRV) bottles and cans at the Burbank Recycle Center, located at 500 South Flower Street, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CRV is 5 cents for each eligible container less than 24 ounces and 10 cents for containers 24 ounces or more.



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Each spring, the Burbank Police Department, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration, hosts a drug take-back event for expired or unwanted prescription medications. The next event is April 26. Visit [www.burbankpd.org](http://www.burbankpd.org) for details.



The Burbank Recycle Center accepts a wide range of items. However, the following items are only accepted Monday through Friday: computers, TVs, and other electronics; household batteries (limit 10 pounds per resident per year); ink toner cartridges (not broken or leaking); fluorescent tubes and bulbs (limit 10 bulbs/tubes per resident per year); and used oil, oil filters, and antifreeze (limit 15 gallons per visit).



## Gutted TVs put residents and City workers at risk

Scavengers have been breaking open TVs that are set at the curb for Bulky Item Pickup to remove the valuable metals and circuit boards. In the process, the scavengers may spread leaded glass, phosphors, and fire retardants onto soil and streets or into storm drains. The gutted TVs are dangerous for the City workers who arrive to pick them up. Plus, broken TVs require special handling procedures, which are both time-

consuming and more costly.

To reduce scavenging at the curb, deliver your TV directly to the Burbank Recycle Center whenever possible. The Recycle Center accepts electronics Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you cannot deliver your TV and must have it picked up as a Bulky Item at the curb, please place it near the curb on the evening before pickup, or, better still, before 7 a.m. on the morning of collection. If you see scavengers

removing TV parts, please call the non-emergency police number at 818-238-3000.

The Burbank Recycle Center accepts 100 pounds of electronics per resident per year. Residents can also deliver electronics to the SAFE Collection Centers in Glendale or Sun Valley (open Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Learn more at [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com).

## A single cup of joe

According to the National Coffee Association, 12% of Americans now own a single-cup coffee brewing system. Generally, the people using these systems purchase packaged and pre-measured coffee. Depending on the system, the ground coffee comes in a cup or pod assembled with multiple layers of metal and plastic. As a result, most of the cups or pods end up in the trash.

Not only are cups and pods nearly impossible to recycle, but the coffee in them is also much more expensive. On a per-pound basis, the coffee in the pods or cups costs at least three times as much as coffee purchased in bulk.

If you already own a single-cup brewing system, consider purchasing a refillable filter cup. You can use your own ground coffee and reuse the filter many times. You'll reduce waste and save money on coffee.

If you don't own a brewing system but like making one cup of coffee at a time, consider a single-cup French press or a pour-over coffee dripper. With high style, you'll save money on coffee, reduce waste, and avoid an expensive appliance that takes up counter space.



## Too toxic for the trash

Household cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, automotive fluids, pool chemicals, paint and paint thinner, mercury thermostats and thermometers, beauty products, medicines, and medical "sharps" are considered household hazardous waste (HHW) and cannot be thrown in trash or recycling containers. Hazardous wastes can put workers at risk or pollute our soil, water, and air when carelessly disposed of.

The City of Los Angeles offers free, convenient drop-offs for all of your HHW, as well as electronics, at the SAFE Collection Centers, open Saturdays and Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (except on holidays or rainy days). The nearest SAFE Collection Centers are located in Glendale at 4600 Colorado Boulevard and in Sun Valley at 11025 Randall Street.

There is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds of material per vehicle per trip.

No business or commercial waste is accepted on weekends. However, businesses can call 213-485-2260 to make a drop-off appointment.