



Californians Against Waste

Conserving Resources. Preventing Pollution. Protecting the Environment.

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Contribute online here for our 32nd Birthday Event!

FIND A PLACE TO GET RID OF YOUR UNWANTED STUFF.
 Dead batteries crowding your drawer?
 Need to ditch that used oil?
 Dispose of household toxics safely!
[Click Here for more information](#)

Poll

What's your waste reduction priority for 2009?:

- Plastic Grocery Bags
- Toxic Electronics
- Apartment Recycling
- Polystyrene
- Plastic Bottles
- Wine & Liquor Bottles
- Paint & other HHW
- Fluorescent Lamps
- Food Waste Composting

Bag Facts

- Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide. That comes out to over one million per minute.
- According to the EPA, over 380 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps are consumed in the U.S. each year.
- According to The Wall Street Journal, the U.S. goes through 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually. (Estimated cost to retailers is \$4 billion.)
- Californians throw away 294,000,000 pounds of plastic bags every year, or 147,000 tons - enough waste to circle the planet over 250 times.

C.A.W.'s Birthday Event

Join us in Celebrating 32 Years of Recycling Policy Success



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CAW Recycling News

- Jun 23 - North Carolina Legislature Bans Plastic Bags In Island Counties
- Jun 19 - Milk Added to Alberta Bottle Bill
- Jun 12 - Stations Turn Off Analog Signals as Digital TV Deadline Arrives
- Jun 11 - San Francisco Moves Closer to Adopting Mandatory Recycling
- Jun 10 - Senate Committee to Discuss Reorganization of Recycling Agencies

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Living Green

- Jun 21 - Dads try to be eco-aware role models (San Diego Union Tribune)
- Jun 15 - Green Economy is growing nationally (SF Examiner)
- Jun 15 - Officials vow support for renewable energy in the west (AP)
- Jun 14 - Caltrans ramps up solar energy use (Appeal-Democrat)
- Jun 14 - Marin County Residents Offered Tire

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- In the State of California, 600 plastic bags are thrown away every second.
- Some estimate a plastic bag may take one thousand years to decompose. That means a bag thrown away during the crusades, the birth of Constantine, or at the signing of the Magna Carta would just be finishing its decomposition now.
- 86% of all known species of sea turtles have had reported problems of entanglement or ingestion of marine debris.
- In the North Pacific Gyre, the mass of plastic is 6 times greater than the mass of plankton.
- If Californians cut their plastic bag waste in half, it would save over two thousand barrels of oil a day (over 800,000 barrels a year) and keep 73,000 tons of rubbish out of our landfills.
- In 1999, 14 million trees were cut to produce the 10 billion paper grocery bags used by Americans.
- Only 10 to 15 percent of paper bags and 1 to 3 percent of plastic bags are recycled.
- Paper bags take up more

[Recycling Program \(Marin Independent Jrnl\)](#)

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Active forum topics

Asking the battery manufacturers to help Obama's Inauguration Speech

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Mark Murray's Blog

- Jun 9 - Recycling Rates Demonstrate the Bottle Bill is Working
- Jan 22 - Long Run to Keep California Beautiful
- Jan 20 - Inspired to Think Big on this Historic Day

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Scott's Climate Change Blog

- Feb 3 - CCAR Workgroup Considers, Rejects Incentives for Landfilling Wood Products
- Jan 29 - Scoping Plan Implementation Schedule
- Dec 11 - Recycling to Play Critical Role in State's Landmark Global Warming Plan

more

than twice the landfill space than plastic varieties do. Also, their greater weight and volume requires more trucks and gasoline for hauling than plastic.

- Tree regrowth cannot keep up with the current logging rate.
- It takes more than four times as much energy to manufacture a paper bag as it does to manufacture a plastic bag.
- Paper sacks generate 70% more air pollutants than plastic bags.
- It is estimated that between one to three percent of plastic bags produced worldwide end up as litter. Remember, generation numbers are estimated between 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags a year.
- In the 1980s it was estimated that plastic rubbish caused the deaths of over 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles a year in the North Pacific alone.
- Less than 5 percent of US shoppers use canvas, cotton or mesh bags. Please change that number by choosing reusable when you shop.

Learn More...

- ["Paper or Plastic?"](#)
- [How Do I Get a Reusable Bag?](#)
- [The Food Co-op List](#)
- [Further Reading](#)
- [Recycling Locations](#)

[Return to The Shopping List](#)

(categories: [Marine Debris](#) [Plastic Bags](#) [Healthy Living](#) [Source Reduction](#))

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