

Waste Watch

Fall 2004

Newsletter of the Kern County Waste Management Department

The Truth About Trash and How to Get Rid of It!

Truth is - trash disposal is a challenge. It's a challenge for engineers, biologists, environmentalists, government officials, waste haulers, landfill operators and residents. Why the challenge?

New state and federal mandates require continual updating of landfill procedures - so procedures change.

Increasing costs require dynamic, creative solutions - so systems change.

Expanding technology creates new options - so disposal choices change.

Mis-information, partial-information and non-information leaves residents confused. The following are a few items of interest that every Kern County resident should know:

- **HOUSEHOLD TRASH** including sofas, stoves, mattresses, refrigerators, freezers, tables, chairs, desks, lamps, washers, dryers and regular garbage is accepted at any Kern County Disposal site - ABSOLUTELY FREE.
 - **TELEVISIONS AND COMPUTER MONITORS** are accepted at any Kern County disposal site - one per household, per day. We strongly encourage donating usable TV's or monitors to a local nonprofit such as Goodwill or Salvation Army.
 - **CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING WASTE** including lumber, drywall, shingles, asphalt, concrete, brick, tile, cabinets, flooring, and other building materials are accepted at local landfills at the gate fee price.
- Avoid disposal charges by sorting your load and taking your construction/remodeling material to a recycling facility.
- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** - including paint products, insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, swimming pool chemicals, household cleaners, deodorizers,

personal hygiene products, pet care products, automotive products and fluids are accepted, free of charge, at the County's Special Waste Facility, 4951 Standard Street in Bakersfield.

The Special Waste Facility is open on Thursday & Friday, from 10 A.M.- 4 P.M. and on Saturday from 8 am until 4 P.M.. Waste Management also sponsors one-day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events in the outlying areas of the county. Call: 661-862-8922 for more information.

- By State law, **WHOLE TIRES** cannot be disposed of in local landfills. The Kern County Waste Management Department recycles tires into usable products such as rubberized bark and playground pads.

However, when you purchase new tires you pay a tire disposal fee, so the tire stores will properly dispose of your tires at no additional cost. If you choose to take your tires to the landfill, for recycling, it costs just a "buck" per tire.

- **WE DO NOT ACCEPT:** firearms or explosives, hot ashes, liquids of any kind, or waste from outside the County of Kern.
- The State of California also mandates residential recycling programs. To recycle, you can take recyclable materials such as **ALUMINUM, GLASS, CARDBOARD, NEWSPAPER, #1 AND #2 PLASTIC BOTTLES, JUNK MAIL and STEEL CANS** to a Residential Drop Center or a buy-back center. There are 19 drop-off centers throughout the county and dozens more buy-back centers.

Metro-Bakersfield residents can now sign up for curbside recycling collection at just \$20.00 per quarter.

Call the Kern County Waste Management Department at 661-862-8900 or check our web site at www.co.kern.ca.us/wmd for information on any county waste disposal program.



FAIR WARNING

Among this year's Fair displays was a pile of illegally dumped tires, a 22' billboard and a "Tot Lot" made from recycled materials. These seemingly disjointed components were designed to send a strong message to county residents to help mitigate the problem of illegal dumping in Kern County.



Tires are dumped throughout the county in farm fields, vacant lots and along quiet roadsides. The clean-up of illegally dumped tires costs local taxpayers thousands of dollars each year. The goal was to distribute information regarding actual disposal costs, disposal site locations and hours, as well as the options available for recycling.

The "Tot Lot" component illustrated what can be done with recycled materials. The play area was made from recycled aluminum, recycled plastic and recycled tires. The play area illustrated a positive way in which manufacturers are closing the loop on recycling. The lot is a smaller version of several being constructed at county parks throughout the county.

In addition to the display itself, interested fair goers received a voucher good for the free disposal of up to four tires, information on recycling and disposal options in Kern County, and samples of a rubber bark material - made from Kern County tires. The project, very popular at this year's fair, was a fun way to illustrate that tires can be recycled into a durable secondary product.

The display was a project of the **Keep Kern Clean** program. **Keep Kern Clean** is a countywide program designed to eradicate illegal dumping in Kern County. The program encourages volunteers to clean up illegally dumped materials. An education component, including landfill disposal, household hazardous waste disposal, bulky waste and recycling information, rounds out this ongoing program.

For Your Information

Local Landfill Locations & Hours:

Bena Landfill

17 miles east of Bakersfield, off Hwy. 58, at Tower Line Road

Open Daily: 8 am to 4 pm

Boron

1/2 mile south of Boron, at 11400 Boron Avenue

Open:

Sun, Mon, Tues & Thurs: 12 pm to 4 pm

Sat: 8 am to 4 pm

Closed: Wednesday and Friday

Mojave-Rosamond Landfill

5 miles south of Mojave, 1 mile east of Hwy. 14, at 400 Silver Queen Road

Open: Sun, Wed and Fri: 8 am to noon

Mon and Sat: 8 am to 4 pm

Closed: Tues and Thurs

Ridgecrest Landfill

5 miles southwest of Ridgecrest, 3301 Bowman Road

Open Daily: 8 am to 4 pm

Shafter-Wasco Landfill

8 miles west of Shafter, off Lerdo Hwy.

1 mile north of Scofield Ave at 16721 Scofield Ave

Open Daily Sun: 10 am to 2 pm

Mon - Sat: 8 am to 4 pm

Taft Landfill

4 miles north of Taft, 1 mile north of Hwy. 119, at 13351 Elk Hills Rd.

Open: Sun, Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat

Sun: noon to 4 pm

Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 8 am to 4 pm

Closed: Tues and Thurs

Tehachapi Landfill

12001 Tehachapi Blvd., Tehachapi

Open: Sun, Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat

Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat: 8 am to 4 pm

Sun: 8 am to 12 pm

Closed: Tues and Thurs

NOTE: All sites are closed on the following holidays:

New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, 4th of July, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES

The National Association of Counties (NACO) awarded three Kern County Waste Management Department programs with the highest honors for innovation and community service:

Keep Kern Clean: This public-private partnership cultivates the strengths of volunteers, industry, government and business to clean up illegally-dumped garbage in Kern County. More than 2.7 million pounds of illegally dumped garbage has been cleared away through the Keep Kern Clean program. In addition to mitigation, prevention through education is paramount to Keep Kern Clean. An elementary school program, mass media advertising and public speaking round out the outreach component of this vital county program.

E-Waste Collaborative: This innovative collaborative effort teams up Kern County Waste Management with the Bakersfield Association for Retarded Citizens, Goodwill Industries and Salvation Army to reuse and recycle electronic waste - primarily televisions and computer monitors. The Cathode-Ray Tubes (CRTs) found inside these units are considered hazardous and must not be disposed of in a landfill.

The televisions and monitors are reused - as is - or are taken apart for component recycling. In addition to the diversion component, jobs were created for developmentally disabled clients at BARC. During the first year, 10,000 CRTs were run through the program.

Landfill Monitoring System: This monitoring system uses technology to keep costs down at local waste disposal sites. Through video technology, the Landfill Monitoring System records local waste haulers arrival and departure at local sites - on days the sites are closed to the general public. The system allows haulers to continue running garbage routes throughout the week, and allows Waste Management the ability to monitor their activity without having a staff member on site. It's cost-effective and efficient!



Daphne H. Washington
Director KCVWMD

Director's Comments

Every time I attend a conference on waste management, I realize the excellent position Kern County is in - relative to its waste management system.

We are fortunate that we own our disposal system. Many communities do not and are paying higher disposal fees to private companies or other jurisdictions to take their waste. In addition, they are implementing costly recycling programs to simply reduce transportation and disposal costs!

We are fortunate that our disposal systems are relatively close to population centers, helping to keep the cost of transporting waste down. The distance to disposal affects the price charged to collect waste.

We are fortunate that we have redundancy. We own several landfills, so if we were to experience damage or loss of use of one landfill, we have others within a reasonable distance. This is a luxury few communities have!

We are fortunate because we have lots of capacity for the future. We have ensured that residents of Kern county, and its incorporated cities, have waste disposal capacity exceeding 50 years!

We are fortunate that we have managed this resource cost effectively. The cost for disposal (\$36 per ton) is competitive with neighboring counties. More impressively, is that the \$36 per ton is enough to cover all expenses associated with recycling, regulatory compliance, as well as everything that goes with owning, building and operating the disposal systems.

Finally, **we are fortunate** that the decision was made to establish an *enterprise fund* to track and manage the cost of the waste management system. This means that fees paid for waste management can only be used for waste management, and not diverted to other purposes or special projects. This ensures the fiscal stability of the system and makes it easier to borrow money for major capital projects.

Kern County has been very wise. Although not perfect, we are envied by most jurisdictions who expend a lot of time worrying about long term capacity and the price of disposal from year to year. Kudos to current and prior elected and appointed officials who laid the foundation!

Household Hazardous Waste

WHAT CAN I DO WITH IT?

- Only buy what you can use.
- Share leftovers with friends, neighbors, etc.
- Recycle used motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze, car batteries and latex paint.
- Buy safer alternatives to hazardous household products.
- Store unused products in a safe, dry, cool place.
- Follow label directions.

Call the Recycling Hotline at (661)862-8979 to find out about HHW collections. For legal disposal take residential household hazardous waste to:

SPECIAL WASTE FACILITY

4951 Standard St.

(from Buck Owens Road head west on Gilmore Ave., then north on Standard Street)

Contact Us:

Kern County Recycling Hotline (661) 862-8979

Kern County Waste Management Department:

Local (661) 862-8900
Toll-free (800) 552-KERN
(800) 522-5376
TTY – ready (800) 735-2929
Web site: www.co.kern.ca.us/wmd

City of Bakersfield Solid Waste Division

Local (661) 326-3114
(Mount Vernon Green Waste Facility
& Metro Bakersfield Drop-Off Recycling Centers)
Web site www.ci.bakersfield.ca.us

California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)

Sacramento (916) 341-6300
Web site www.ciwmb.ca.gov

California Materials & Exchange (Cal-MAX)

(877) 520-9703
Web site www.ciwmb.ca.gov/calmax

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