



South Valley  
WASTE ZERO

Proud to Be  
Employee Owned  
Spring 2010

Recology South Valley  
1351 Pacheco Pass Hwy  
Gilroy, CA 95020

If you have any  
questions about  
your services,  
contact a Customer  
Service Representative  
at  
**408-842-3358**  
or visit our website at  
[recologysouthvalley.com](http://recologysouthvalley.com)

Se Habla Espanol

Important Resource:  
City of Gilroy  
[www.ci.gilroy.ca.us](http://www.ci.gilroy.ca.us)

# The Connection

Keeping us connected to the communities we serve

## 2009 Recycler of the Year Awards

Every year Recology presents an award to a business that has done an exceptional job reducing waste and increasing their recycling.

The 2009 **Gilroy Business Recycler of the Year** award is going to Costco.

Costco has been recycling and diverting waste from landfills for years. They first opened for business in 1983, reusing cardboard boxes to pack purchases, and recycling the extra boxes.

They've also been donating baked goods to local charities and recycling film plastic for years. But recently, they have been working on increasing the variety of materials they recycle. Dennis Hoover, Costco's Senior V.P. of the Bay Area Region initiated the new organics recycling program. There are several reasons why Costco wanted to start recycling organics, but Mr. Hoover initiated the program because "it is the right thing to do". He knows that recycling is important in helping conserve our natural resources and Costco wants to do all they can to reduce their negative impact on the environment.

Recology and Costco started work on the "pilot" organics recycling program in July 2009. Costco is partnering with an organization called G-Rock, who has been conducting employee training on the new program. It takes every employee to make the program work. Costco uses a 35 cubic yard compactor for their organics material and it is hauled away to Recology's composting facility twice a month. Composting organics and recycling office paper, and food & beverage containers, Costco recycles over 70 % of the waste. When their cardboard and film recycling program is included, Costco diverts over 90% of the waste!

Recently we spoke to Greg Gutierrez, General Manager, and he said "Costco is proud to do our part for the environment and the staff members are excited to be part of the team." Greg said that the staff often receives positive reactions from Costco members who often ask if they are putting their waste in the correct bin. Costco has a three bin system: Green = food and food contaminated paper; Blue = paper, cans, bottles; and Red = garbage.

Thank you, Costco! Please remember, when you are in Costco and you see their three bins, pay attention to the signs on the bins so you don't contaminate the recycling!



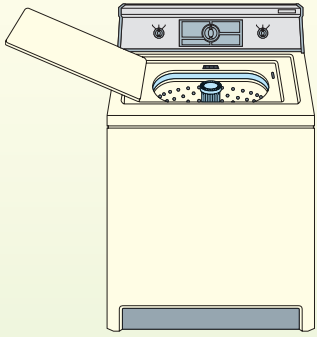
Some of the key Green Team members posed around a bail of cardboard are (L to R): Armando, Javi, Oscar, Shannon, June, Denise



Costco's 3 bin system



## Clean up Opportunity for Gilroy Residents



During the week of April 19-23, Gilroy residents can set out seven additional 32-gallon cans/bags of garbage on their regular garbage pick-up day. (35-pound limit).

Residents may also drop off two bulky items free of charge at the San Martin Transfer Station at 14070 Llagas Avenue in San Martin.

### Examples of bulky items

**include:** mattresses, appliances, furniture, etc.

Please bring your original April billing statement (not a copy) when dropping off bulky items to show you are a Gilroy resident. (The scale person at the transfer station will take the bill)

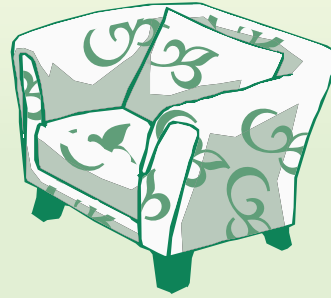
There will be a \$25 fee for appliances containing Freon, such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc.

This special bulky item drop off event will last through July 31, 2010. (only one trip is allowed)

**Examples of unacceptable materials:** Concrete, dirt, rock, tree stumps, hazardous waste

### San Martin Transfer Station

**Hours:** Monday-Saturday, 8am-4:30pm; Sunday 8am-12pm.



## Free Compost and Wood Chips Saturday, April 17th

On Saturday, April 17th Recology South Valley will be giving away compost and the City of Gilroy will be giving away wood chips at Christmas Hill Park. You need to bring your own shovel and a container for these materials. You may take **up to three 32-gallon cans** of compost and up to two cubic yards of wood chips. A supervisor will be on site from 8am-12pm during the giveaway.

Using compost improves the fertility and the health of your soil, helps with water retention, and reduces water run-off. Wood chips help with weed control and moisture retention.

Look for signs that will direct you to the give-away location near the dead-end of the Ranch Site. **You need to bring your own shovel and a container or bags.**

## Recycling Electronic Waste

Electronic waste, also known as E-waste, is harmful to the environment when improperly disposed of. If your unwanted E-waste is still in good working order, donate it! Call the Center for Development of Recycling at **(800) 533-8414** or go to **RecycleStuff.org** to find places that need your unwanted items.

You may also recycle these items at a Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste event.

Please call **299-7300** or go to **HHW.org** to make an appointment to drop off electronic items and/or your unwanted household hazardous waste. The event is conveniently held monthly in San Martin -- you will receive directions to the event after you make an appointment.

There are businesses in Gilroy and Morgan Hill that accept electronic waste for recycling, at no charge, on a regular basis:

**Western Recycling in Morgan Hill** accepts all electronic waste for recycling. They are open Monday through Saturday, 9am-5pm and are located at 16290 Railroad Avenue. For specific questions, please call **779-1781**.

**Thomas Recycling/Martin's Recycling in Gilroy** accepts all electronic waste for recycling. They are open Monday through Saturday, 9am-5pm and are located at 6310 Chestnut St. For specific questions, please call **842-2565**.

## Resources for Kids

Here are some fun websites to educate kids (and adults) about environmental issues.

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

Brought to you by the California Integrated Waste Management Board ([www.ciwmb.ca.gov](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov) is the main webpage)

[www.conservation.ca.gov/index/Pages/qh\\_kidsEducators.aspx](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/index/Pages/qh_kidsEducators.aspx)

Brought to you by the California Department of Conservation

[www.epa.gov/kids/](http://www.epa.gov/kids/) and [www.epa.gov/teachers/](http://www.epa.gov/teachers/)

Brought to you by the Environmental Protection Agency