

GLENDALE RECYCLING NEWS



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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GREEN BUILDING - GREEN LIVING



One of the greatest of human insights is that everything in life is connected to everything else. A program that clearly illustrates those connections is the rapidly growing field of green building. This field has long focused on guiding the construction of sustainable commercial buildings, with the most common standards being the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC, www.usgbc.org)

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system and Green Globes (www.greenglobes.com). Now USGBC and the local GreenPoint Rated system (www.greenpointrated.org), have developed guidelines for the green construction and modification of single and multi-family residences.

Glendale Water and Power now provides financial assistance for GWP customers for green building design review, LEED and other approved green building certifications, and other technical assistance (www.glendalewaterandpower.com). This effort recognizes the value of a comprehensive framework for analyzing interconnected environmental issues. Those issues have taken on added importance as it becomes clear that significant reductions in our personal and societal carbon emissions will be necessary to avoid catastrophic increases in global warming. The State of California has taken a leadership role in this area by adopting AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, in 2006. That Act established a statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions cap for 2020 equal to the Statewide GHG levels in 1990.

While most of the attention under AB 32 will be upon the larger issues of utility and vehicle emission standards, there are a number of actions that individuals can take to reduce personal carbon emissions and live a more sustainable lifestyle. The suggestions in this newsletter are derived from the new residential green building standards, with a particular focus on areas that result in the conservation of resources and the reduction of waste.

Sustainable Landscaping

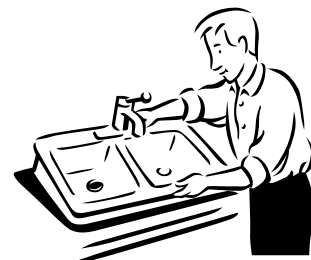
Since nearly half of all water used in a typical home is for the lawn and garden, one simple solution is to replace high-water consuming grasses and ornamental plants with native plants that are best planted in the fall before winter rains and surrounded by woody mulches to preserve moisture and reduce weed growth. Such a change will result in lower water and fertilizer bills, less time spent mowing, pruning, and maintaining fast-growing plants, fewer yard trimmings to handle, and more native birds and wildlife attracted to your yard.

A further step to sustainability would be to increase the portion of your yard dedicated to vegetables, herbs, berries, and fruit and nut trees. Since food crops will need supplemental watering, install a high-efficiency irrigation system using only drip, bubblers or low-flow sprinklers. While native plants do not need soil amendments, it is important to improve soil used for food crops through either adding compost, or using sheet mulch or nitrogen-boosting cover crops (go to www.glendalewaste.com for how to obtain free backyard compost bins). For more information on native plants, contact the Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley (818-768-1802) where a wide range of native plants can be obtained and classes are offered on landscaping with natives. Call the City at 818-550-3435 for information on additional sources of free tree trimming mulch, \$100 rebates on chipper/shredders, and native plants.



Use of Recycled and Reused Products

The **Habitat for Humanity Restore** in Pasadena (626-792-3838) has a wide selection of doors, sinks, cabinets, tile, and other used building products for sale. Various kinds of **insulation** are available that are made from recycled materials: cellulose (made from old newspapers), fiberglass (some is made with up to 50% recycled glass), and cotton. **Concrete** is readily available with up to 25% of the cement replaced with recycled fly ash. **Steel-framed buildings** have the advantage of being made with at least 25% recycled scrap and will be recycled back into steel upon demolition. Attractive tiles made from recycled glass and other recycled materials are also available for use in floors and countertops. **Reclaimed wood** is available from a number of sources for flooring and non-structural timbers. **Recycle-content paint and carpet** made from recycled PET bottles and other materials are also available. While Internet searches provide the most up-to-date information on this issue, the State of California maintains a list of California-based recycled product manufacturers at www.recyclestore.com. The use of recycled-content products reduces carbon emissions since it requires much less energy to make products from recycled materials than from their virgin alternatives.



Energy Conservation and Renewables

GWP provides rebates on a wide range of energy conservation devices, including: solar attic fans, refrigerators, air conditioners, ceiling fans, windows, and attic insulation. Many of the rebates are for appliances that qualify under the national Energy Star (www.energystar.gov) program. Free shade trees (3 maximum) and compact fluorescent lights (10 maximum) are also available. The Gas Company (www.socalgas.com) provides additional rebates on gas-fired tankless water heaters, furnaces, dishwashers and washing machines. Tankless water heaters are roughly 25% more efficient than conventional water heaters since they do not constantly maintain a tank full of hot water.

The most ambitious local energy rebate program is the GWP Solar Solutions Program which provides up to \$4 per watt for installed photovoltaic systems sized 30 KWdc or less. This incentive will remain in effect until December 2008 and will decline at a rate of 7% per year. Solar electric power will have an even greater environmental benefit when auto makers begin selling plug-in hybrids, which is expected by 2010.

Recycling Job-Site Waste

The waste from any new construction or demolition project in Glendale with a valuation of \$100,000 must now be taken to a certified mixed debris recycling facility or to a source-separated recycler that will recycle all the waste (such as concrete or metal).

The closest **certified mixed debris recycling facilities** (which also accept metal, inert, and wood waste) are:

- Athens/American Waste Pendleton Facility at 11121 Pendleton Street in Sun Valley (818-768-1492),
- Community Recycling at 9189 De Garmo Avenue in Sun Valley (818-767-6000),
- Looney Bins at 11616 Sheldon Street in Sun Valley (818-252-0019),
- Downtown Diversion at 2424 E. Olympic Blvd, Bldg. 3 in Los Angeles (213-612-5005).

The closest **scrap metal dealers** are:

- City of Glendale Recycling Center at 540 W. Chevy Chase Drive in Glendale (818-552-2870),
- A-1 Metals Recycling at 8250 Tujunga Avenue in Sun Valley (818-767-4388),
- American Reclamation at 4650 Doran Street in Los Angeles, next to Glendale (323-245-0125),
- Westside Metal Recycling at 6449 San Fernando Road in Glendale (818-243-6965).

The closest **inert (asphalt, concrete, brick, rock) recyclers** are:

- Newman and Sons at 9005 Bradley Avenue in Sun Valley (818-767-0700),
- Valley Base Materials at 9050 Norris Avenue in Sun Valley (818-767-3088),
- AMH Recycling at 11063 Pendleton Street in Sun Valley (818-652-4536).

Water Conservation

The importance of water conservation in the Southwest is expected to increase as global warming raises average local temperatures. Besides landscape water conservation, there is also a need for more water-efficient washing machines, dishwashers, and dual-flush toilets. GWP provides residential rebates in all three areas.

We can also do a better job of efficiently using rainwater, a subject that was locally addressed recently at the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (www.arcsa.org) conference. A good source for ideas in this area is Brad Lancaster's [Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands](#). It covers how to use cisterns, swales, and other landscaping techniques to capture and use rainwater. A good resource to consider the further step of reusing graywater (from bath/showers, bathroom sinks, and washing machines) is to review Art Ludwig's [Create an Oasis with Greywater](#).

REMEMBER THE 3 R'S

1. Reduce

Consume Conscientiously:

- Buy in bulk and avoid single-serving packages
- Repair instead of replace (e.g. repair shoes and clothing)
- Print two-sided copies
- Take advantage of Glendale's lower fees for smaller 64-gallon refuse containers

2. Reuse

Dispose of Disposables:

- Bring reusable bags for shopping
- Carry a reusable water bottle or mug
- Pack a waste-free lunch
- Use cloth napkins/towels instead of paper

Turn Trash into Treasure:

- See list of local donation opportunities and thrift stores under "Reuse Resources" at www.glendalewaste.com
- Sell items through www.craigslist.org or give them away at www.freecycle.org

3. Recycle

Try to recycle whatever cannot be reduced or reused.

- www.glendalewaste.com describes Glendale's free programs to collect recyclables from residences and businesses, including the
- **Glendale Recycling Center** at 540 W. Chevy Chase Drive (818-552-2870), which purchases recyclables and scrap metal and accepts electronic waste and batteries, and
- **Glendale's free residential bulky item collection program**, which recycles appliances, furniture, and electronic waste.
- Recycle your yard trimmings through backyard composting, worm composting, grass(re)cycling, and mulching. Glendale residents can obtain a **free compost bin** or a discounted \$25 worm bin by attending any of the **2009 composting workshops** listed at www.glendalewaste.com. The next ones are on Friday, March 13 (11:30 a.m. for backyard composting and 12:30 p.m. for worm composting) and Saturday March 14 (9:00 for backyard composting and 10:00 for worm composting).

Call **818-548-3916** for more information on any Glendale waste reduction program.