

A SORTED AFFAIR

12 months of Green Resolutions

by Jane Bogner

Sunday, Jan 13, 2008

Now that my readers have committed to 12 months of green resolutions, let me challenge local businesses to do the same. Grab a pair of scissors and cut out this column and attach it to your break room bulletin board and off we go.

January: Recycle E-waste

Benicia High School is sponsoring an E-waste Recycling event on January 26 and 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This free drop-off for your old computers and unwanted electronics will take place in their parking lot at 1101 Military West.

You can drop off your e-waste year-round at local Goodwill collection centers or at FMRC Recycling (a.k.a. Forklift Mobile) located at 1690 East 2nd Street #7 in Benicia (707 747-7032). Vallejo Garbage Service (VGS) will pick up televisions and computer monitors for a fee.

February: Start your business recycling program

The bottom line is there is no additional charge for commercial recycling services. Contact Lisa LeFebvre at Vallejo Garbage Service (707 552-3110) who will customize a recycling program for you.

March: Green commute

Reward employees who take alternative transportation. Check out Solano Commuters (www.solanolinks.com 1 800 53-KMUTE), ride the ferry or take the bus to BART. One less car on the road is all I ask.

April: WRAP award

Fill out a Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) application. Log onto the state site, www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WRAP/, for information on waste prevention and reuse in your business. The site offers green resources and downloadable recycling posters. If the Chamber can do it, so can you.

May: Green lunch

Once a week, pack a lunch in reusable containers with a cloth napkin and real silverware. If your business has a kitchen, challenge staff to bring their own mugs for coffee and glasses for water. Purchase a water filter for your sink or a portable water filter pitcher and stop buying water in plastic bottles. Your next step is to add an earthworm composting bin in your lunch room for coffee grounds, tea bags, and non meat food scraps.

June: Enter Vallejo's Recycling Rewards Contest

The City of Vallejo is offering rewards for good recyclers. Call 707 648-5346 for information. Businesses can earn \$500 if their name is picked and their recycling and trash bins are properly sorted.

July: Green office

Plants help keep your office healthy and most offices have enough light for nonflowering plants to thrive.

August: Business reuse

Do you have unused file folders, note pads, outdated envelopes and stationery cluttering up your desks? Start a reuse area where employees can donate and take items. If you have too much, bring it to VALCORE's ReUse Barn.

September: Coastal Cleanup

Save Saturday, September 20, for this annual event and help us keep waterways, fish, and birds healthy. A clean Vallejo invites more businesses and shoppers.

If you miss Coastal Cleanup day consider Adopting a Street and help keep your area clean year-round.

October: Save energy and water

Install programmable thermostats for climate control and motion sensors for lights. In the restrooms, install water saving toilets and aerators for your faucets.

November: Buy recycled, buy green

Make it a company policy to buy recycled or green products. There are links on VALCORE's web site to many green companies.

December: Adopt a nonprofit

Finish your green year without a big holiday party. Solicit your staff's favorite nonprofit organization and contribute the party money or (green) goods to them.

VALCORE Recycling Board Secretary Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit www.VALCORErecycling.org.

E N D