

I challenge my readers to make 2009 a greener year. New Year's resolutions tend to fade away quickly so I have an easy way for you to maintain your green momentum. Grab a pair of scissors and cut this column out and attach it to your refrigerator. Your new phone book has additional ideas. Check out the Solano County Recycle Guide in the Yellow Pages.

#### **January: Recycle Ewaste**

Benicia High School is sponsoring an E-waste Recycling event on January 31 and February 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This free drop-off for computers and unwanted electronics will take place at 1101 Military West. They will accept microwaves for a \$5 fee and are collecting warm coats and canned food to distribute locally.

You can drop off your e-waste year-round at local Goodwill collection centers or at FRMC Recycling (a.k.a. Forklift Mobile) located at 1690 East 2nd Street #7 in Benicia (707 551-7072). Vallejo Garbage Service (VGS) will soon open a drop off site. Watch this column for details or call 707 552-3110.

#### **February: Eat close to home**

There is a growing movement to eat food that is grown within 100 miles of home ([www.100milediet.org](http://www.100milediet.org)). You can shop at the local farmers' market for produce and fish. For valentine gifts, check out our local candy maker Liled's (1318 Tennessee Street). Liled's will fill your pretty box with chocolates.

#### **March: Green commute**

The weather is nicer now, so walk, car pool, and encourage others to take alternative transportation. Check out Solano Commuters ([www.solanolinks.com](http://www.solanolinks.com) 1 800 53-KMUTE), ride the ferry or take the bus to BART. Ask your company to consider rewarding employees for their green commute. One less car on the road is all I ask.

#### **April: Earth Day - BYOB**

Make the commitment to BYOB: Bring Your Own Bag. Do this every time your shop. Earth Day Events will be held later this month. Check [www.recycle-guide.com](http://www.recycle-guide.com) for details.

#### **May: Go Native**

Learn how to plant California native plants. Once established, you can have blooming plants year-round. To get started, attend a Water-Wise Gardening workshop in Vallejo or Benicia.

#### **June: Green Wedding or Event**

Consider sending electronic invitations,

renting gowns, decorations, and table settings. Your bridal registry could be a favorite nonprofit.

#### **July: 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.

If you cannot live without sparkling water or soda, considering joining the Soda Club USA ([www.SodaClubUSA.com](http://www.SodaClubUSA.com)). They sell a blender-size machine that carbonates tap water.

#### **August: Head to school green**

Instead of buying new items, check out thrift stores for clothes or furniture for your dorm room. Carbon footprint is calculated on "new" items purchased so there is only a small footprint on used items making it better for the planet.

#### **September: Volunteer for Coastal Cleanup**

Save Saturday, September 19, for this annual event that keeps waterways, fish, and birds healthy. A clean Vallejo invites more businesses and shoppers.

#### **October: Avoid prepackaged produce**

When you purchase pre-cut fruit on a nonrecyclable plastic platter, you own this container and have to throw it away in your garbage. Tell grocery stores that you do not want over- or pre-packaged fresh produce.

#### **November: Rechargeable batteries**

In California, batteries are considered hazardous waste and must be disposed at an approved recycling collection site (VALCORE or Vallejo Garbage Service). Invest in a set of rechargeable Nickel-Metal Hydride (Ni-MH) batteries. VALCORE has used them for years in their buy back scale. I have used them faithfully for my camera, MP3, remotes, and other devices.

#### **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 to them.

Happy New Year to all my faithful readers and thank you for your support.

VALCORE Recycling Board Member Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling info call VALCORE at 645-8258 or visit [www.VALCORErecycling.org](http://www.VALCORErecycling.org). ## E N D ##