

Friends have been raving about the new California Academy on Science ([www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org)) building in Golden Gate park. I decided it was time for me to take a virtual tour and get some facts.

Here are some incredible statistics.

The U.S. Green Building Council awarded the Academy their highest award: a Platinum LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). The Academy is the largest public Platinum-rated building in the world and also the world's greenest museum.

Here are some of the things that made the building green:

- § Ninety percent of all demolition materials was recycled.
- § 32,000 tons of sand from foundation excavation was use to restore local dunes.
- § Ninety-five percent of all steel came from recycled sources.
- § Fifty percent of the lumber was harvested from sustainable-yield forests.
- § Sixty-eight percent of their insulation comes from recycled blue jeans.
- § Ninety percent of their office space has natural light and ventilation.
- § Their 60,000 photovoltaic cells produce 213,000 kilowatt-hours of energy.

The bottom line is that anyone can build green. All it takes is thinking green from the beginning.

How does this apply for DIY (Do It Yourself) projects? Your first resource is the AT&T Yellow pages. Look under R for recycling and follow the index to the Construction and Demolition Recycling. You will find places to recycle your project's waste and resource for obtaining used materials such as [www.NapaMax.org](http://www.NapaMax.org) or [www.reusepeople.org](http://www.reusepeople.org).

This information is kept up-to-date on the Solano County Recycle Guide online at [www.recycle-guide.com](http://www.recycle-guide.com).

VALCORE Recycling welcomes three new board members: Jyl Gershen-Lewis (Cub Scout Pack 112), Doug Hanson (VCUSD CREST Adult Center) and Jacque Barsotti as a Community Member and green business owner.

As seasoned board members mentor the new members, we realized that a Q&A about VALCORE may be helpful for our readers.

What is VALCORE Recycling?

Vallejo Community Organizations Recycling (VALCORE) was established in 1981 by Vallejo's Beautification Advisory Commission. They saw a need to clean up litter and lessen the impact on the

local landfill by encouraging recycling.

Today, VALCORE is a nonprofit 501c(3) organization working in partnership with Vallejo Garbage Service (VGS) and the City of Vallejo. Twelve nonprofit organizations and three community members sit as the board of directors as well as work at the site and at community events. These groups share in the proceeds for their work and recycling.

What is VALCORE's mission?

Promote recycling and resource recovery through the recycling center and public education.

Where is VALCORE?

They are located at 38 Sheridan Street (at Solano Ave) in south Vallejo.

When is VALCORE open?

Monday through Saturday: donations are accepted from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (4:30 p.m. winter). Buy Back is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (4:30 p.m. winter). They are closed from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

How do we contact them? Call 707 645-8258, email [info@VALCORErecycling.org](mailto:info@VALCORErecycling.org) or log onto [www.VALCORErecycling.org](http://www.VALCORErecycling.org)

What recycling does VALCORE Accept?

All California Redemption Value (CRV or CA Cash Refund) containers can be redeemed here. Please sort by material type and remove lids.

VALCORE also accepts glass bottles, #1 and #2 plastic bottles, office paper, newspaper, cardboard, books, scrap metal, household batteries, ink jet or toner cartridges, and cell phones.

Does VALCORE pick up the curbside recycling?

No, that job belongs to VGS,

What other services does VALCORE provide?

Their **ReUse Barn** is a place to donate useable office materials, art supplies and items that can be turned into art projects.

VALCORE will periodically teach **composting** classes. They maintain four working backyard compost bins and two earthworm bins on site.

They offer **school tours** and will help plan recycling for your **events**. They have a few recycling containers to loaned out.

VALCORE will host the City of Vallejo's **paper shredding** event on Saturday, March 21 at their site from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$5 per twenty pounds (maximum: 100 pounds).

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