



June Update

Quick Links:

Commission on the Environment

Recycling FAQ

Environmental News

Brown Bag Lunch at SF Environment



Use the [EcoFinder](#) to find out where to recycle just about everything!

Follow SFE:



Twitter



Facebook



YouTube



Flickr



→ Compost This



Do you have green cart composting service in your SF apartment building? If not, please [email us](#) your building address and property manager's contact info and we'll help get the program started.

SF Environment's goal is to get every building in the City composting. With your help, we can do it. We conduct site visits to identify space for the carts, door-to-door tenant outreach, and follow-up visits to ensure the program's success. Of course, green cart compost service comes at no additional charge to apartments in San Francisco.

Find out what happens to San Francisco's food scraps in this [CBS News](#) piece.

→ Who's the Greenest of Them All?

Urban EcoMap

We all know climate change is a big, hairy global predicament, but what can we do about it here at home? [The Urban EcoMap](#) uses trash collection and recycling rates, hybrid car ownership, household energy consumption patterns and other factors to identify how San Francisco neighborhoods are contributing to, and solving, the problem.

The Mission district emits nearly 38,000 pounds of carbon per household. How does *your* neighborhood stack up, and what can you do about it? Find out at the [Urban EcoMap](#).

→ It's on Your Energy Watch

SF Energy Watch helps qualifying businesses and multifamily

Do you have green cart composting service?

buildings lower their energy bills. SF Energy Watch can **save you money** and help San Francisco become a cleaner, greener place to live.



To take advantage of this free program, call the SF Energy Watch hotline at 415.355.3769 or visit the [website](#). SF Energy Watch is a partnership between the City & County of San Francisco and PG&E.



Say No to Styro



Why should something we use for ten minutes stick around in our environment for ten thousand years?

Help [pass a statewide ban](#) on single-use Styrofoam take-out food containers, just like we've done successfully here in SF.

[Forward email](#)

SF Environment | 11 Grove Street | San Francisco | CA | 94102



Happy Solstice!

Quick Links:

[Commission on the Environment](#)

[Recycling FAQ](#)

[Environmental News](#)

[Our Home, Our City, Our Planet - SF Gate Blog](#)

[Volunteer with SFE](#)



Use the [EcoFinder](#) to find out where to recycle just about everything!

Connect with SFE:



Twitter



Facebook



YouTube



Flickr



Get Into (Solar Heated) Hot Water



Biodiesel buses will leave at 10:00 and 11:00 AM from Justin Herman Plaza on a first-come, first-served basis on **Saturday, June 21**, to tour five different solar water heating installations in the city. Don't miss out!

Learn about solar water heating costs and incentive programs, installation tips, and environmental impacts. The tour and exhibit is part of [Solar Day 2009](#), the first annual celebration of solar energy and its role in national energy independence, to be held on the first day of summer.

Contact [Johanna Partin](#) for more information: (415) 355-3715



We're Soooo Gov 2.0



Even SF Mayor Gavin Newsom is [sounding off](#) about the brand new EcoFinder app. The EcoFinder has always been a great web-based tool to enable SF residents to find out how to recycle or dispose of just about everything, but the EcoFinder iPhone application makes getting this information just that much easier.

So don't leave that old couch out on the street, use the EcoFinder to find free and easy ways to get rid of it, right from the comfort of your own phone. [Download it here.](#)



It's in the Bag, the Reusable Bag

We need your help counting the types of bags shoppers are using at area stores. Paper, plastic, canvas?

Free solar water heating tour this Sunday

Don't worry, you won't need to actually talk to anyone (heaven forbid). We want to see if our efforts to increase reusable bag use are working. We'll give you all the tools you need to conduct the survey. Contact [Emily Utter](#), Campaign Coordinator, to sign up.



→ Showcase your Green Home Project

GreenPoint SHOWCASE

The most effective way to market your homes.

Build It Green, an organization that promotes healthy, energy- and resource-efficient building practices in California, is offering builders and architects a new way to showcase their GreenPoint Rated projects and attract clients and customers.

Visit the [GreenPoint Showcase](#) to learn more.

[Forward email](#)

SF Environment | 11 Grove Street | San Francisco | CA | 94102



July 2009

Quick Links:

Commission on the
Environment

Recycling FAQ

Environmental News

[Our Home, Our City, Our
Planet - SF Gate Blog](#)

[Volunteer with SFE](#)



Use the [EcoFinder](#) to find out where to recycle just about everything!

Connect with SFE:



Twitter



Facebook



YouTube



Flickr



Mayor Newsom Signs Tough New Recycling and Composting Law

Once again, our city is leading the nation by passing groundbreaking legislation that requires buildings to provide recycling and composting services to their residents. Universal Recycling will help us meet our aggressive "zero waste" targets. Get the facts [here](#).



Mail in your Meds



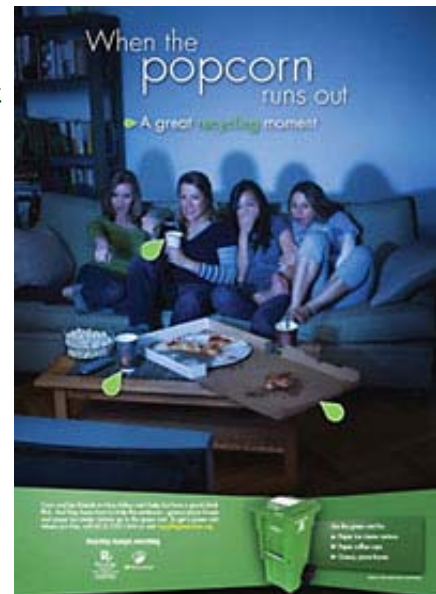
Wonder what to do with unused or expired medicines? Don't put them down the drain, where they can show up in our water systems. Throwing them in the trash isn't environmentally sound, either. While the City works on a permanent solution to the growing problem of safe medicine disposal, we are providing free postage-paid envelopes so you can [mail your meds](#) for incineration. Pick up an envelope at SF

Environment, 11 Grove Street, or call (415) 355-3777 for more information.



Recycling Changes Everything, Starring YOU

If you know your way around the blue and green recycling and composting carts, SF Environment has an exciting new campaign for you. Join the folks featured in the ads around town (have you seen them?) and [post your personal story](#) about what makes you a recycling superstar. Your blurb and picture could be featured on the Recycling Changes Everything website, where you can share it with friends on Facebook, Twitter and MySpace. Thank you for helping us spread the word!

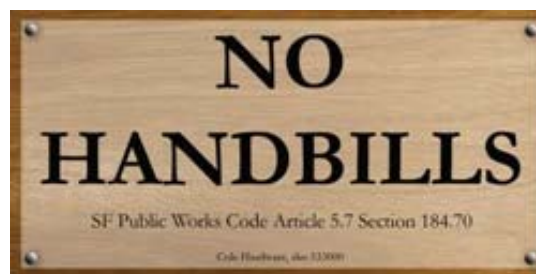


→ Don't Miss Sunday Streets

In case you haven't heard, [Sunday Streets](#) is the funnest, free-est street party in the City, and it's coming to the Mission on July 19. Hop on your bike and enjoy everything from Aztec dancing to rollerskating and hula-hooping - all on car-free streets! There's fun for the whole family at Sunday Streets.



→ Litter Free Zone



Are you bugged by those flyers, menus, brochures, and other "littertisements" left on your doorstep? Well, according to the City's Public Works code, it's illegal for people to

distribute that junk when a sign is posted on the premises. You can pick up a "No Handbills" sign at your local [Cole Hardware](#).

[Forward email](#)



August 2009

Quick Links:

[Commission on the Environment](#)

[Recycling FAQ](#)

[Environmental News](#)

[Our Home, Our City, Our Planet - SF Gate Blog](#)

[Volunteer with SFE](#)



Use the [EcoFinder](#) to find out where to recycle just about everything!

Connect with SFE:



Twitter



Facebook



YouTube



Flickr

→ Tour the Top Trees - this Saturday

Join SF Environment and Friends of the Urban Forest on a tour of San Francisco's officially recognized [Landmark Trees](#). From the stately to the small, our biodiesel bus will tour the trees that have had the biggest impact on San Francisco.

The tour is **Saturday, August 22** from 1:30pm to 4:30pm and will visit 10 different sites. Meet us at the eucalyptus trees on the corner of [1801 Bush Street](#). No RSVP is required for this free event, but space on the tour bus is limited, so make sure you arrive early! For more information contact meiling.hui@sfgov.org.



Kurt Rogers / The Chronicle

→ The Ugly Truth about Dry Cleaning

All dry cleaners in California will soon be required to phase out the use of "perc," an extremely toxic chemical solvent. It's about time! The question is, what technology will they choose to replace it?

[Some SF cleaners](#) have already switched to professional wet cleaning, an effective environmentally-friendly method. If your favorite cleaner isn't on this list, tell them that if they really "heart" their customers (and their workers, and the planet), they won't be fooled by "greenwashing" and will switch to a truly green alternative.



Learn about various [dry cleaning alternatives](#) and their



impacts, and check back soon for a listing of all SF cleaners and the technology they use.

→ Attn Teachers: Free Field Trips!



Ever wonder what happens to all the paper, bottles and cans we recycle? Or how food scraps magically turn into rich garden compost? Or how to make cool art out of stuff we throw away? The [SF Environment School Education program](#) is offering field trips to SF

public and private schools, grades 2-12. [Apply today](#) - the deadline is **September 5!** And please pass this along to any SF teachers you know.

→ Have You Seen the Green (Box)?

As part of our "[Great Recycling Moments](#)" campaign, we've put special pizza boxes and take-out containers in some of your favorite restaurants to remind you that they can be composted. If you see one, please snap a pic and let us know on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) (@SFenvironment)!

Remember, all food-soiled paper can be placed in your green cart. To learn more, visit [RecyclingMoments.org](#).



→ Plastic Bags vs. Jellyfish



Join the largest volunteer event of the year! SF Environment is hosting a clean up site for the 25th Annual [California Coastal Cleanup Day](#) on **Saturday, September 19**. Come be a part of this community event to clean up our marine environment.

RSVP with Sunshine.Swinford@sfgov.org.

[Forward email](#)

SF Environment | 11 Grove Street | San Francisco | CA | 94102

[<< Return to the SF Environment website.](#)



September 2009

Quick Links:

[Recycling FAQ](#)

[Environmental News](#)

[Our Home, Our City, Our Planet - SF Gate Blog](#)

[Volunteer with SFE](#)

[Commission on the Environment](#)

→ 20% off the West Coast Green conference!



SF Environment is proud to partner with West Coast Green, the largest interactive conference on green innovation for the built environment.

Through SF Environment, you can receive a 20% discount off for a full conference pass to West Coast Green 2009. Your pass includes access to all

Keynotes, Leadership Summits, Education and Networking Sessions and the Tradeshow Floor.

Follow the link below to register with the discount:
[SFE Discounted Pass to West Coast Green Conference](#)



Use the [EcoFinder](#) to find out where to recycle just about everything!

→ Transportation Breakfast and Fair

Join SF Environment for a Breakfast Reception and Transportation Fair on Thursday, October 1. Learn how carpooling and vanpooling can work for your company. Get expert advice on the how-to's, the perks & incentives, and the increasing popularity of this transit option. Representatives from alternative transportation organizations will be available to answer your questions.



RSVP [here](#) before September 29th.

For more information, contact commuterbenefits@sfgov.org or 415-355-3727.

Connect with SFE:



Twitter



Facebook



YouTube



Flickr



→ Check out our newest Green Businesses



Have you visited one of our SF Green Businesses lately? The delicious grocery [Bi-Rite Market](#) in the Mission district and [Underdog](#), an organic sausage joint in the Sunset, are just a couple of the newest Green Businesses.

Whether you're looking for a great lunch or cocktail spot like [Roots](#), or a place to take care of your pet while you're out like [High Tail Hotel](#), or even environmentally-friendly legal services from [Barkley Court Reporters](#), you can find it all in our [SF Green Business Directory](#).

So remember to look for the SF Green Business logo and patronize one every time you shop. Start searching the directory now at sfgreenbusiness.org.

→ BIG Blue Bucket is this Saturday!

Learn how to go green and turn your beautiful home blue. Take advantage of conservation programs and services, FREE giveaways, and raffle prizes.

The BIG Blue Bucket will showcase different environmental programs, such as rainwater harvesting, water conservation, [SFGreasecycle](#), [GoSolarSF](#), composting as well as the importance of emergency preparedness.



Saturday, September 26
10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
On Jerrrod Avenue @ Phelps Street in the Bayview
[More Information](#)

→ Calling all green golf fans...



Come volunteer with SF Environment at the [PGA Presidents Cup Golf Tournament](#)! Our volunteers will be monitoring recycling and composting stations during the tournament to make the event as green as possible.

We need 50 volunteers for various shifts between Oct. 6 and Oct. 11 so be sure to contact our volunteer coordinator [Sunshine](#) or [sign up online](#). This will be a very fun event and you get to check out some of the action firsthand. Sign up early and reserve your spot on the course.

[Forward email](#)

SF Environment | 11 Grove Street | San Francisco | CA | 94102

[<< Return to the SF Environment website.](#)

October 2009

Quick Links:

[Recycling FAQ](#)[Environmental News](#)[Our Home, Our City, Our Planet - SF Gate Blog](#)[Volunteer with SFE](#)[Commission on the Environment](#)

Use the [EcoFinder](#) to find out where to recycle just about everything!

Connect with SFE:



Twitter



Facebook



YouTube



Flickr

➔ New Drop-Off Sites for CFLs & Batteries!

We've been working hard to make disposing of toxic materials as easy as possible. Just recently, we've added our first drop-off site in NoPa, a great new location in SOMA, and yet another location in the Sunset for a total of three (last year we had none!). All three sites collect fluorescent lights and batteries from residents for recycling:



- [SF Hardware](#), 512 Divisadero St.
- [Speedy's Hardware](#), 1061 Folsom St.
- [Great Wall Hardware](#), 1821 Taraval St.

A big thanks to these merchants for partnering with the City to keep San Francisco safe and healthy. For a full list of recycling & disposal services in San Francisco, [don't forget about the EcoFinder!](#)

➔ "Greening the Bayview" Campaign Kickoff & BBQ

This weekend, join District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, SF Environment and Recology to celebrate "Greening the Bayview," a new initiative to help Bayview businesses and residents be on the leading edge of recycling, composting and energy efficiency in San Francisco. Come on out, eat some BBQ, and meet your neighbors! This is a free event.



Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to Noon,
Bayview Opera House, 4705 Third Street ([map](#))

For more details, [click here](#).



SF Energy Watch Needs You!

Maybe your favorite local restaurant, shop, or gym could benefit by having a FREE energy assessment? SF Energy Watch can help!



SF Energy Watch (a partnership between the City of San Francisco and PG&E) delivers energy efficiency services and incentives to qualifying businesses and multifamily buildings. After an on-site walkthrough to identify potential energy savings, our specialists will generate a detailed report with recommendations for energy efficient equipment, qualifying incentives, savings estimates, and return on investment.

SF Energy Watch is one of San Francisco's best-kept secrets, so talk to the manager or owner of your favorite joint about this program, and give us the contact info for those who are receptive. We'll do the rest!

Call the SF Energy Watch hotline at 415.355.3769 or visit www.SFEnergyWatch.org.

[Forward email](#)

SF Environment | 11 Grove Street | San Francisco | CA | 94102

[<< Return to the SF Environment website.](#)

November 2009

Quick Links:

[Recycling FAQ](#)[Environmental News](#)[Our Home, Our City, Our Planet - SF Gate Blog](#)[Volunteer with SFE](#)[Commission on the Environment](#)

Use the [EcoFinder](#) to find out where to recycle just about everything!

Connect with SFE:



Twitter



Facebook



YouTube



Flickr

→ Dreaming of a Green Christmas



For a limited time Friends of the Urban Forest and SF Environment are offering San Francisco residents a chance to order a living, potted Christmas Tree for only \$95. Each one of these beautiful, 6' to 8' tall trees has been handpicked to thrive in San Francisco. Choose exactly which tree you would like to have in your home for the holidays when you pick up your tree at the City Hall Plaza Green Christmas Tree lot on December 5th and 6th, from 10 am until 2 pm. Trees will be available on a first come,

first served basis. If you miss the tree lot, you can pick up your tree at the Friends of the Urban Forest offices from December 7, 2009 through December 11, 2009. Pick up your tree early for the best selection! After the holidays, we'll plant them on our city's streets. You can help! When the trees are ready to be planted, we'll let you know.

[ORDER YOUR TREE NOW](#)

→ Your City and Your Environment Need You!



Join in our neighborhood outreach campaigns and events. We are going door-to-door delivering green kitchen pails and educating residents about the City's green cart composting program. We also provide cart monitors at various SF festivals and events. Come meet new friends, have

fun, and save the planet. Contact Sunshine for more info: 355-3736 or sunshine.swinford@sfgov.org or complete the [Online Application!](#)

→ Office Energy Savings Tips

- Make sure you turn off your computer monitor when you turn off your computer. If equipment is plugged into a powerstrip, turn that off as well.



- Screen-savers do not reduce energy use, switch to sleep mode or turn the monitor off.
- Laptop computers and inkjet printers consume 90% less energy than desktop computers.
- Use e-mail instead of sending memos and faxing documents.
- If you need to print, consider double-sided printing on recycled post-consumer waste paper, and reusing paper



For more energy savings tips for office and home, [click here!](#)

→ Share Your Thanksgiving Recycling Moment!

Will you scrape your plates and put your turkey carcass in the green composting bin? Will you have a story to tell about how you turned Turkey day into a Great Recycling Moment? If so, we'd love to hear about it on the interactive recycling moments website. You can also test your knowledge of what goes in each bin by playing the recycling game.

[Share Your Story](#)

[Forward email](#)

SF Environment | 11 Grove Street | San Francisco | CA | 94102



December 2009

Quick Links:

[Recycling FAQ](#)

[Environmental News](#)

[Our Home, Our City, Our Planet - SF Gate Blog](#)

[Volunteer with SFE](#)

[Commission on the Environment](#)



Use the [EcoFinder](#) to find out where to recycle just about everything!

Connect with SFE:



→ Wondering What to Do With Fruitcake?

It might seem like hazardous waste, but last we checked, fruitcake is considered edible by many. If you simply can't regift or donate yours, it goes in the green cart, along with all food scraps - including bones, eggnog cartons, coffee filters, used napkins...Click [here](#) to



learn what else goes in the green, blue, and black carts. And keep an eye out for our [green cart TV commercial](#). It's on youtube, so you can send it to friends who need a little help with what goes where.

→ Green Gifts Near You

Want to give gifts you can feel good about? Use the directory at [SFGreenBusiness.org](#) to find crafts, clothing, handmade candy, restaurants, and even pet hotels - all that meet the stringent environmental and health standards of the City and County of San Francisco.



→ Where Batteries Go When They Die



We want your dead batteries. And we've made it easy for you to recycle them. There are dozens of drop-off sites throughout the city: check the [EcoFinder](#) for the closest Walgreens or other retailer. If you're a San Francisco resident in a 1-4 unit building, you can recycle your batteries by sealing them in a clear plastic bag and setting them on top of your black waste cart on collection day (please tape both ends of lithium batteries before recycling). Larger buildings can get a battery recycling bucket, at no additional

charge. For more information, visit Recology's [battery recycling page](#).

→ 'Tis the Season to Treecycle

We know it's hard to say good-bye, but after the holidays, you can put your tree out for collection January 4-8 and January 11-15. Please place clean unflocked trees next to your carts on your regularly scheduled collection day. Be sure to remove all tinsel,



decorations, plastic bags, stands, and lights. If your tree is over 6 feet, please cut it in half. Also, if your usual collection day is Friday, there will be no service on the 25th or the 1st; pickup will be on Saturday December 26 and January 2.

Happy holidays!

SF Environment | 11 Grove Street | San Francisco | CA | 94102