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January 2010

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

Connect with SFE:



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→ Cell Phones - Risky Business?

Some scientific reports find that heavy users of cell phones may face increased risk of brain cancer and other serious problems. San Francisco's [Commission on the Environment](#) hearing on January 26 will consider recommendations to reduce cell phone users' exposure to radiation.



Children and teens are considered especially vulnerable because their brains and bodies are still developing. Learn more Sunday **January 17th** at the [free workshop](#) "Are Cell Phones Safe? How Teens Can Avoid Risk."

Reduce your exposure immediately - use a headset, speaker function, or text instead. Visit the [Environmental Working Group](#) to learn more.

→ Who Is the Greenest of Them All?



Get the inside scoop on some of the greenest businesses in San Francisco. Join [EcoExcursions](#) on Friday **January 15th** for their first tour of [SF Green Businesses](#). Ride a biodiesel tour bus to explore some of SF's most successful and interesting green businesses, talk with owners about their journey to go green, and learn from experts and innovators in the local green economy.

Register at [ecoexcursions.org](#)

→ Garbage Dreams: Free Screening



Welcome to the world's largest garbage village located near Cairo, Egypt. The Zaballeen (Arabic for garbage people) recycle 80% of the trash they collect. But now a multi-national corporation threatens their livelihood. Follow three teenage boys born into the business who are forced to make choices that will impact the survival of their community in this [free screening of *Garbage Dreams*](#). A brief discussion panel will follow with [SFE's](#) very own residential recycling coordinator, Kevin Drew.

Tues **January 19th**. 5:45pm, SF Main Library on Larkin at Grove. Free.

→ You're Invited: City Art Preview Party

See SF's newest environmental art project before it hits the street. The [Urban Forest Project](#) San Francisco will make a powerful visual statement by planting 100 environmentally-themed street banners in the heart of the city this spring. Join us at the preview party on Saturday **January 23**, 2-4pm at the Bayview Opera House (Third St. at Oakdale). RSVP at [urbanforest.eventbrite.com](#). Learn more at [ufp-sf.com](#)



→ Recycle Electronics, Save \$ on CarShare

Wish your old computer or TV were worth enough to pay for your car? Now they can be (well, almost). When you donate working or broken electronics (or anything) to [Goodwill](#) stores in SF, you keep toxic materials out the landfill and support Goodwill's program to train workers in electronics recycling. Plus, show your receipt and [City CarShare](#) will give you \$30 in driving credits when you sign up for a new membership. Already a member? Use a City CarShare vehicle to donate and get \$10 in driving credit (up to 4 times per year) when you mail in your receipt to City CarShare's offices. (Use promo code "Goodwill" on your application at [www.citycarshare.org](#) for a new ShareLocal, Share-a-Little or SharePlus membership.)



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February 2010

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→ Got Gas?

Cylinders, that is. The empty propane tanks rolling around in the back of your Subaru since last summer's Yosemite trip. Bring them to any [Cole Hardware, Sports Basement, or REI](#) in San Francisco for recycling. Big thanks to these businesses for doing the right thing for our environment.



→ Environment Wow!



Nearly 70 Environment Now staff have been out and about in the City helping restaurants get with the composting program, working the food court at [SF State](#), and talking up our free [energy efficiency audits](#) for businesses. They're everywhere! If you get a phone call or a door knock from

this crew be sure to ask all your burning enviro-questions, because they're here to help.

→ Rid Your Life of E-Waste

You know you have it. The dusty monitor, crusty keyboard, vintage cellphone. Bring these relics to [St. John's School](#) (925 Chenery Street, Glen Park BART) on **Saturday, February 20**, 9am - 2pm, for recycling.



They'll take TVs and Monitors • Computers and Laptops • Scanners and Printers • Cell Phones • Fax Machines • Ethernet Cables • Telephone Systems • VCRs and DVD Players. Sorry, no appliances or microwaves.

For more information about this and



future electronics recycling events, visit [Clean City](#). And remember, you can always use the [EcoFinder](#) to find free drop-off locations all year round in San Francisco.

→ Trees, Glorious Trees

Our grandparents called it "Arbor Day," but it's really just an excuse to get outside and celebrate trees. Join your neighbors on **Saturday, March 6**, 9-12pm at [Alemany Farm](#) for a fun day of planting trees, pruning trees, and getting your hands dirty on the farm. But that's not all. We'll have face painting, live music, and a Green Resource Fair. Arbor Day is always a good ol' time.



We're also looking for volunteers to help on the day of the event. You'll get a healthy, delicious lunch as our way of saying, "thanks!" So dig out your garden gloves and contact our volunteer coordinator, [Sunshine](#) to sign up.

→ Congrats to Poster Contest Winner



Happy cheers erupted at Bayview's Bret Harte elementary school last week when students learned that a 5th grader named Katina had won SF Environment's compost poster contest! We made the winning design into a poster that local merchants can display to remind people why we compost in San Francisco. As the poster says, "We compost because we care about the environment."

To find out what goes in the green compost cart, click [here](#).

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March 2010

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

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→ March Madness Turns Green

It's March madness. You've called in sick, you're avoiding your girlfriend, and you've bet April's rent. There is redemption: toss those greasy napkins and pizza boxes into the green cart instead of the trash. Now you're doing something right!



Test your recycling and composting skills with our [Recycle Slam game](#) or head over to [RecyclingMoments.org](#) to share your March Madness recycling moment.

→ Saving energy and money in the Mission and Bernal Heights



SF Environment representatives are currently visiting Mission and Bernal Heights to help businesses cut energy costs through the SF Energy Watch Program, a partnership between PG&E and the City of San Francisco.

To schedule a free energy assessment, call the SF Energy

Watch hotline at (415) 355-3769, or visit [sfenergywatch.org](#). Hablamos Español.

→ Lights out for Earth Hour on March 27th



Join hundreds of millions of people around the world during Earth Hour to call for action on climate change by doing something simple—turning off your lights for one hour on Saturday March 27th from 7:30-8:30pm. This special hour symbolizes the positive impact we can all make by working together to protect our future.



Visit MyEarthHour.org to learn more, find a local Earth Hour event near you, or organize an event in your neighborhood.

→ One Department's Cast Offs, Another Department's Treasure



San Francisco's [Virtual Warehouse](#) is a free online materials exchange system for SF city departments. On an average day, there's everything from file cabinets to computer equipment on the available items list. By using the Virtual Warehouse and reusing rather than purchasing new stuff, employees save the City hundreds of thousands of dollars each year on purchasing and disposal costs. If

you are a non-profit or school click [here](#) to get surplus items from the Virtual Warehouse program.

If you are a City employee and want to learn more about the program, please plan on attending one of our free upcoming workshops on Wednesday April 28th from 10-11 am or Thursday, April 29th from 2-3 pm, both in City Hall, room 421.

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April 2010
Happy Earth Day!

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→ Get Funding for Green Home Upgrades

Homeowners looking to make green improvements have a new helping hand in an exciting new City



program called [GreenFinanceSF](#). This program allows property owners to fund environmental improvements with the financing attached to the property and paid back on the property tax bill to overcome the large up-front costs of such improvements. At a [recent internet town hall](#), Mayor Gavin Newsom noted that "these improvements will save property owners money on monthly utility bills, increase property value, and will help the city meet its aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals."

If you are an interested property owner, you can apply for funding online, as well as review eligible projects and pre-approved contractors at [GreenFinanceSF.org](#).



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

Connect with SF Environment:



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→ Get a Bigger Better Blue Bin for Zero Bucks



Does this picture look familiar? If your blue bin is filled to the brim, you can request another container for all those recyclables that need a home. And these days in San Francisco that's nearly everything: **all glass and plastic bottles, metal cans, clean (dry) paper** (even cereal boxes and envelopes with windows), and **hard plastic from cups to toys like Mr. Potato Head**. Best of all, you don't need to worry anymore about those confusing numbers on plastics - we

take them all! (No Styrofoam or plastic bags please.)

Call Sunset Scavenger/Golden Gate for a bigger blue cart: 330-1300/626-4000. If you're a residential customer with curbside collection there's no extra charge. In fact, if you recycle enough to order a smaller trash cart, you could save a few bucks each month!



→ SF Dry Cleaners Go Green

Did you know that your choice of dry cleaners can help reduce your exposure to hazardous chemicals? Well it can! Now there are six garment cleaners in San Francisco that use specialized equipment to clean garments with water and detergent instead of a toxic, cancer-causing chemical called Perchloroethylene. It's called wet cleaning. [Use this map to find a wet cleaner near you.](#) You can also learn more about this environmentally friendly and effective process by visiting SFEnvironment.org/garmentcleaning.



→ Urban Forest Map "Logs" SF Trees



Can you save a tree by logging it? Yes, if you "log" it into the [Urban Forest Map](#), a new online tool developed to catalogue the city's leafy assets. Slated to launch on Earth Day, the map will allow anyone with a web browser to add information about specific trees to the Urban Forest Map, such as their location, species, size, and health. This data can then be used by urban foresters and city

planners to better manage trees in specific areas, track and combat tree pests and diseases, and plan future tree plantings. Climatologists can also use the tree data to better understand the effects of urban forests on climates, and students can use it to learn about the role trees play in the urban ecosystem.

→ 3-1-1: One Call Does It All

Do you live in the city and need to know about garbage and graffiti? How about street and sidewalks? Or maybe transportation options in San Francisco? 311 is a free, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, city service to answer all those burning SF related questions. The City and County of San Francisco established 311 to provide an easy-to-remember telephone number that connects residents, businesses, and visitors to Customer Service



Representatives ready to help with general government information and services. And now you can also use Twitter to contact 311 at www.sfgov.org/311.

Remember, though, for emergencies, use 911!

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→ Win a Free \$45 Carpool Voucher



Want a faster, cheaper, less stressful commute to work? Consider trying a carpool or vanpool today! To get started, simply [register](#) before June 15 to share a ride. Then

forward your registration confirmation email to commuterbenefits@sfgov.org.



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

→ Do You Have a Climate Passport?



Connect with SF Environment:



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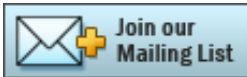
YouTube



Flickr

Travelers at San Francisco Airport (SFO) can now easily calculate the carbon footprint of their flights through the [Climate Passport Program](#) and purchase offsets to reduce their impact on climate change. The new [carbon kiosks](#) located in the airport make it convenient for passengers to lessen their guilt about emissions from air travel. The City and SFO have partnered with [3Degrees](#), a San Francisco-based carbon firm, to provide this service to travelers. You can also get your [climate passport](#) online.

→ Students Honored at Annual School Awards Ceremony!



Four SF schools received the red carpet treatment for their outstanding efforts in protecting nature. Whether composting at school with the green cart, using solar-powered cell-phone charging stations, or tending their school garden, these schools did exemplary work! Among

the winners were Alvarado Elementary, Daniel Webster Elementary, Gateway High School, and St. James School. In addition, Nini Portlock, [SFUSD](#) Custodial Supervisor, received special recognition. Each year, the [school award program](#) honors environmental excellence by hosting a beautiful ceremony held at City Hall. You can view photos from this event and other events on [Flickr](#).

→ Play in the Bayview!

Start in China Basin and ride a bike, walk, or skate all the way to the Bayview in this month's [Sunday Streets](#) this Sunday, May 23rd from 10am-3pm. The Bayview neighborhood will be hopping with fun activities for everyone:

[Bayview Opera House](#) will feature live music, dancing, free health screenings, and much more! Come by and check out the Bayview Music Festival featuring [Jest Jammin'](#) at 3pm at 3rd Street and Galvez Street.



→ Celebrate World Environment Day



This year, the United Nations's [World Environment Day](#) is once again held in North America. San Francisco is hosting a dinner and celebration at Temple Nightclub on June 5. Mingle with people in your community making a difference in the fields of biodiversity and sustainability and do your part to make the next five years as successful as the last. Link to the Facebook page for

more info and to [RSVP](#). Coinciding with World Environment Day and with a focus on water conservation, the [San Francisco Public Library](#) is kicking off another summer reading program for kids, teens, and adults.

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June 2010

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

Connect with SF Environment:

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→ Fair Warning for Cellphone Users

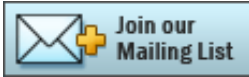


San Francisco passed legislation this week that requires cellphone retailers to post information about how much radiation the phones they sell emit. The legislation is a shining example of the City's [Precautionary Principle](#), which guides us to *First Do No Harm*. Visit our [cellphone radiation webpage](#) for more information about how you can avoid possible harm and find links to help you [look up your cellphone](#).

→ Wondering How to Recycle Everything Else?



Wonder what to do with leftover paint, dead batteries, old electronics, and all that other stuff that doesn't go in the blue, green



or black bins? Wonder no more. Use the [EcoFinder](#) to find drop-off locations near you, schedule a pick-up, and see other ways to recycle just about everything -- for FREE!

→ Get a Green Energy Upgrade

Attend our FREE [Green Energy Fair](#) to learn how solar, wind, and energy saving improvements can help your home or business protect the environment, increase your comfort, and save you money on your utility bills. There will be

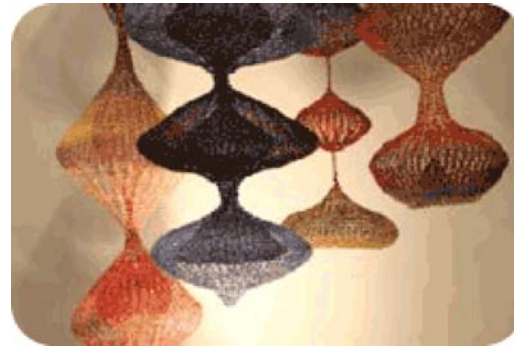


free workshops, activities for kids, music, information about the City's financing program, [GreenFinanceSE](#), and free tours of solar hot water installations leaving at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., with biodiesel buses, of course!

Saturday, June 26, 10 a.m.-3 p.m

Golden Gate Park Bandshell (Music Concourse Drive) [map](#)

→ One Person's Trash is Another Person's Art



Local artist [Tuan Tran](#) uses discarded and recycled materials to create thought-provoking fine art. Seeking to make art that will stand the test of time for beauty, subject, and form, Tuan's work reflects his love for life, humor, and respect for

the environment. You're invited to come to the opening reception this **Thursday, June 17, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** at the [EcoCenter](#). A diverse collection of his creations will be on display through August 15, so make sure to stop by! The [EcoCenter](#) is open 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

→ Play in the Streets this Sunday

Free bike rentals, yoga for kids, a skating rink, and pet training are just a few of the offerings at [Sunday Streets](#) in the Mission District this **Sunday, June 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** We'll be at Garfield Square with our recycling game. Come test your skills!



Here's a [map](#) of the street closures and events throughout the Mission.

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[Landmark Tree Tour - the best trees in SF!](#)



You'll visit this Mexican Fan Palm on the tour, but we can't promise the car (photo circa 1934).



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

SFEnvironment is once again working with [Friends of the Urban Forest](#) to take you on a [Landmark Tree Tour](#) of some of our City's most magnificent trees. We'll visit trees with connections to and history behind the people and events that have shaped San Francisco. From the stately to the small, as you ride our biodiesel bus you'll tour the trees that have had the biggest impact on making San Francisco what it is today and what it will be tomorrow.

Connect with SF Environment:



Join us Saturday August 14th 1:30 - 4:30pm. Meet at the Eucalyptus on the corner of 1801 Bush Street. The tour is free, but [RSVP](#) is required.

[What?! Your apartment doesn't have a green bin?](#)

We can fix that! Every apartment in San Francisco is entitled to a green compostables bin.

San Francisco's [Mandatory Recycling and Composting ordinance](#) requires all building owners and managers in San Francisco to provide tenants with both a green bin for [compostables](#) and a blue bin for [recyclables](#). If your building isn't on board, use our [anonymous report](#)



[form](#). We'll help your building get set up. Each unit will get a free cute (at least we think so!) kitchen pail along with our new Recycling & Composting Guide, posters, and stickers to help everyone do the right thing.



→ Invitation: Summer Unity Tourney and Fair

Come join SF Environment at this year's [Summer Unity](#) Celebration, a series of events for residents and neighbors of public housing.

Each event is made up of a 3 on 3 basketball tournament, a resource fair, cultural and youth performances, fun activities, and a community Bar-B-Que to encourage unity and togetherness of residents living in public housing. The events aim to connect youth and families to resources by bringing the resources to the literal front doorstep.

August events include Alemany Public Housing on August 7th and Sunnydale Public Housing on August 14. Contact Derrick Simpson, 415-821-4777 or derricksimpson@rocketmail.com

→ 2010 Bay Friendly Landscape Conference

Are you a landscape or design professional? Want to be?

This year's [Bay-Friendly Conference](#) and Marketplace will be in San Francisco! September 17th, 8am - 5pm St. Mary's Event Center, SF

Conference Theme: Transforming Urban Landscapes to Protect Our Water Resources

Build your skills and knowledge of sustainable landscaping or work toward becoming a Qualified Bay Friendly Landscape Professional



- Learn how to cost effectively minimize environmental impacts while promoting ecological potential.
- Get the most recent information from experienced professionals and practitioners.
- Discover innovative landscaping products and services.
- Improve your skills, knowledge & bottom line.

- Get continuing education credits.

For registration, pre-conference tour, and info visit
<http://www.bayfriendlycoalition.org/2010Conference>
Register by September 1st.

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August 2010

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

Connect with SF Environment:

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→ The postman only rings once



If you live in San Francisco, you should be getting this handy brochure in the mail any day now. From over 100 convenient drop-off sites to a free home collection service, the brochure lists ways to get rid of all that stuff that doesn't go in the black, blue or green bins. Keep it as a reference, or use our online [EcoFinder](#) to find out what to do with the dead

batteries, e-waste, leftover paint, and other toxic household products you've been wondering about.

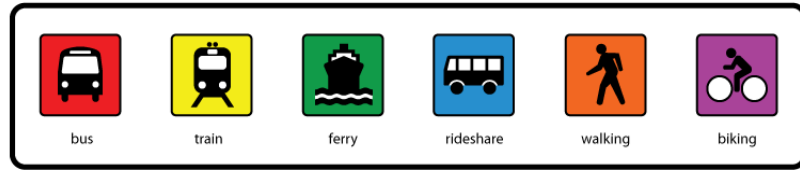
→ SF Approved products for the City and you



We're excited to introduce [SF Approved](#), a new online purchasing catalogue created for San Francisco City departments, but useful for anyone wanting to purchase healthier, environmentally friendly products.

From energy-efficient computers to low-mercury light bulbs to the least-toxic cleaning products, [SF Approved](#) is a one-stop shop for products that meet San Francisco's rigorous health and environmental standards. Spread the word!

→ Pssst! You could be saving on your commute



If you work for a San Francisco employer with more than 20 employees, you are eligible to save up to 40% on your transit costs using [Commuter Benefits](#). Purchasing transit passes using pre-tax dollars is an easy way to save money and protect the environment. If your employer isn't offering this great benefit, please contact [Adeline Canez](#) at 415-355-3729 and she'll help them get set up.

➔ Introducing SF Environment's new Director

Join SF Environment staff in wishing a warm welcome to Melanie Nutter, our new Director, who starts later this month.

"Melanie brings years of experience and stewardship on environmental policy," said Mayor Newsom.

"Her knowledge of government and her role in building coalitions to promote major environmental policy initiatives will be invaluable as we chart our City's efforts toward a greener, more sustainable environment and green jobs economy."



Welcome, Melanie!

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➔ **Congratulations San Francisco, you're recycling more than ever!**



Congratulations San Francisco for having the [highest recycling and composting rate in the nation at 77%](#). Thanks to all your hard work and collective efforts, our city is leading by example.



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

This milestone puts us on track to reach our citywide goal of zero waste by 2020, but we still need your help. Offer to help a friend or neighbor better understand what goes in each bin.

These handy flyers for the [blue](#) and [green](#) bins are great to resources to help your neighbors and friends become recycling pros!

Connect with SF Environment:



➔ **Coastal Clean Up Day - September 25th**



Join [SF Environment](#) for [Coastal Clean Up Day](#) on Saturday September 25th. Do your part to keep San Francisco's coastal and bay waterfronts clean.

Spend the day picking up litter while meeting new friends and celebrate your hard work with a community BBQ!

In 2009, more than 80,600 volunteers worked together to collect more than

1,300,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from our beaches, lakes, and waterways.

To volunteer at the [SF Environment cleanup site](#), contact [Sunshine](#). If you are looking to volunteer at a clean up day site outside of San Francisco, [click here](#).

→ Expired medicine around the house?

Don't throw medicine in the trash or flush it down the drain!

Help us prevent pollution of our bay. Bring your expired or unwanted medicine to a [collection site near you](#) on Saturday September 25.

Learn more about [safe medicine disposal](#) and how you can do your part to keep our bay and oceans pharmaceutical-free.



→ Coming soon: CleanPowerSF



Clean energy supporters in San Francisco can soon breathe a little

easier. [CleanPowerSF](#), the long-awaited renewable energy alternative to PG&E, is slated to take effect next year and provide all San Franciscans greener energy, increased consumer protections, and a choice in their energy supply.

San Franciscans will see no change when they flip on a light switch or plug in their appliances. PG&E will continue to own and operate the electrical grid in the city and provide billing services for customers ([watch an animated presentation about how CleanPowerSF works](#)). However, [CleanPowerSF](#) will provide consumers with two things that PG&E's energy generation currently lacks-long-term rate stability and a cleaner energy portfolio. [CleanPowerSF](#) is the best opportunity for our City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, invest in local renewable energy and efficiency, and make San Francisco a healthier place to live and work.

All residents and businesses will be notified of the final program details and start date. In the meantime, show your support for the program and receive status updates on [Facebook](#). For more information on [CleanPowerSF](#), visit [CleanPowerSF.org](#).

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October 2010



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→ Welcome

Welcome to the October issue of SF Environment's e-newsletter!

As the department's new Director, I'm excited to share some news about our current efforts to protect and enhance the urban environment in San Francisco. This month, we report on ways that District 5 residents can achieve energy savings, how your company can take advantage of the City's Commuter Benefits Program as well as tips on how to clean up after Halloween and Election Day.

Thank you for your continued interest in protecting San Francisco's environment.

Enjoy!

Melanie Nutter
Director, SF Environment



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

→ Calling all HR professionals: Have lunch on us and learn how to improve your employees' commutes!

Connect with SF Environment:



Calling all HR, Benefits and Corporate Sustainability leaders!



Come join us on Tuesday, October 19th from 11:30am-1:30pm at the beautiful Ferry Building for our free Commuter Benefits Workshop. With a view of the San Francisco Bay as your backdrop, enjoy a complimentary lunch and receive all the tools necessary to start offering Commuter Benefits, a pre-tax transit benefit allowing employees to save money on their transit costs.

Starting in 2009, the San Francisco Commuter Benefits Ordinance has required that employers with 20 or more employees nationwide offer Commuter Benefits to their employees. Whether or not you need to comply, this great benefit helps both employees and employers save money. Space is limited. RSVP today at CommuterBenefitsWorkshop.eventbrite.com!

→ Hot off the press: Design for Reuse Primer



Public Architecture last month published their first collection of green building material re-use case studies.

Weighing in at 125 pages including glossary, directories and bibliography, the primer covers new construction and building recommissioning projects across multiple sectors and climates.

To download the *Design for Reuse Primer*, [click here](#).

→ Be on the lookout! Saving energy and money in District 5

SF Environment representatives will be visiting the neighborhoods of Cole Valley, Divisadero Corridor, Haight/ Ashbury, Lower Haight, Hayes Valley, Fillmore District, and Japantown to help businesses cut energy costs through the SF Energy Watch Program, a partnership between PG&E and the City of San Francisco.



To schedule a free energy assessment, call the SF Energy Watch hotline at (415) 355-3769, or visit sfenergywatch.org.

→ What to do with Halloween leftovers and Election Junk Mail?

- Before Halloween hits, let your friends know to toss **old pumpkins** into their **Green Compostables Bin**. If a 'punkin is carved day-of and rinsed afterward, you might consider making a hearty soup.
- After your Halloween party, all those **plastic drink cups** should go into the **Blue Recycling Bin**. San Francisco recycles ALL rigid plastics these days, but make sure that the cups you are using are not labelled compostable. Those go in the **Green Compostables Bin**.
- We may not know the outcome of the upcoming election, but we do know what to do with all of those political mailers. Recology carefully recycles all campaign literature (and other mixed paper) that you put in your **Blue Bin**.



Thank you for continuing to recycle and reduce waste! To find out where to reuse, recycle, donate or properly dispose of just about everything, visit our [EcoFinder](#).

Pumpkin photos via Flickr/ [Steve Rhodes](#), [Arlette](#).



So, when you are wondering where to put that Turkey carcass after your big meal (green cart!) or how many ways there are to recycle your batteries for free, you know where to go for answers. See you there at [facebook.com/sfrecycles](https://www.facebook.com/sfrecycles).

→ Does YOUR House Have These Problems?

- *High utility bills
- *Mold, mildew, or musty odors
- *Damp basement
- *Cold floors in winter
- *Drafty rooms
- *Dust
- *Moisture on windows
- *Peeling paint
- *Hot or cold rooms
- *Dry indoor air during winter



Get up to \$6,000 to improve your home's Energy Performance!

[The San Francisco Home Improvement Performance Program \(SFHip\)](#) is an exciting new residential energy savings program for San Francisco homeowners interested in making their home more comfortable and energy efficient. [Yes, sign me up for a home performance test today!](#)

→ Giants Hit Recycling Out of the Ballpark!

SF Giants have hit recycling rates out of the ballpark, achieving 75 percent recycling last year, up from 57 percent the year before, according to recently completed audits. Using a comprehensive program



that reaches from the luxury suites all the way to the loading dock. AT&T Park diverted 1750 tons or 3.5 million pounds of waste from landfill, making the Giants a 2010 [Waste Reduction Awards Program \(WRAP\)](#) winner. [Read more](#) on how our local champs are the best in baseball and winning also with zero waste efforts at the ballpark. Way to go Giants and Giants fans...we are proud of you!

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December 2010

Quick Links:

[SF Recycles](#)

[Environmental News](#)

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

[Volunteer with SF Environment](#)

[Commission on the Environment](#)



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

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Message from the Director: The electric vehicle market has arrived



Hi! I wanted to share an exciting event with you: On December 11th in front of City Hall, Nissan delivered the world's first LEAF - Nissan's new 100% electric car - to San Francisco. The event highlighted the City's commitment to being a national leader in [electric vehicles](#), with electric car charging stations being installed next year in garages and parking lots around the city. Nissan's selection of San Francisco also demonstrates our commitment to cleaner transportation: San Franciscans lead the nation in Nissan LEAF waiting-list reservations!

See you in the New Year!

-Melanie Nutter, Director SF Department of the Environment



Green Biz = Great Gifts

What do Rainbow Grocery, REI, Mission Pie, La Boulange, and Bi-Rite Market have in common?

They all meet the rigorous environmental standards of the San Francisco Green Business program and are recognized by the City & County as environmental leaders.



Visit our new [Facebook page](#) to join our online community and show these local businesses your appreciation. And if you're looking for a value-added holiday gift (certificate?), check out our lists of local green restaurants and retailers at [sfgreenbusiness.org](#).



"Clutter-free" gifts make memories

If you are a procrastinator, hard-core recycler, cheapskate, or mall-a-phobe, here are some ideas for experiential gifts: Massage coupons



for your partner. Gift certificate to a local cafe for your boss. Help changing ceiling lightbulbs for your 86-year-old friend Lucile! Hot air balloon ride over Napa for grandma! Bonus: They won't clutter your life and will never end up in the landfill after their re-gifting life is over. Got a gift that isn't worth re-gifting? Visit SFEnvironment/reuse to find a way to get it to someone who'll love it.



→ Save gas this December, get a \$25 cash card from PG&E

Get a \$25 cash card from PG&E simply by reducing your home gas usage by any amount this December vs. your 3 year average for the month of December. Reduce by even a smidgen, and you'll receive the easiest \$25 you've ever made.



Gas-saving tips:

- Turn your thermostat down by 3 to 5 degrees.
- Lower the temperature on your water heater.
- Wash your clothes in cold water.

PG&E residential gas customers in San Francisco and San Mateo counties are [eligible](#).

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