

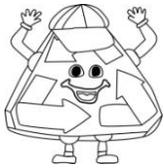


# City of Highland Weekly Report

June 9, 2011

## Repete's Wisdom of the Week... 4 Ways not to be Tricked-Going Green

### Public Services



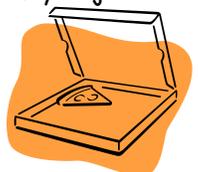
**Repete's Wisdom of the Week.** 4 Ways to Not Get Tricked While Going Green. Just like the game of Telephone has taught us, information filtered through multiple sources starts to get a little less reliable. Like any major trend, with mass awareness comes misconception. For this reason we thought we would share the eight ways to shedding some light on common environmental myths. Most come from simple mix ups or a lack of public education, so we think it should be pretty easy to set the record straight. This week we will start with the first four.

**1. Just throw it out, it's biodegradable!** We've heard people and companies brag about biodegradable materials since this whole green craze started. And though we love them, we don't love the misconceptions that surround them. The prime example - "I can just throw this bottle out, because it will break down." That would be true if we kept our landfills open to the elements such as light, air and water. This, however, is not the case. Throwing a biodegradable bottle into a landfill means it's not going to break down (at least in a time frame that counts). Landfills are meant to keep the

elements out, and it is precisely these elements that need to be present in order for a material to successfully biodegrade. Need some cold, hard evidence? A trash study project conducted by the University of Arizona found some interesting things during their years of trash digging in more than 20 landfills across North America, including "hundreds of undecomposed hot dogs, corn starch and lettuce dating back to the 1960s." Since produce doesn't come with a date, they used some of the still readable 2,425 newspapers they found to get the date of disposal.

**FACT:** Now don't get us wrong, we love that packaging is becoming more aware and that biodegradable materials are more widely used. However, the way these products are disposed is the key when talking about waste reduction. Don't fret, there are alternatives. Recycle it if possible. If not, see if composting is an option.

**2. All paper should be recycled.** Though we would be the first to promote recycling as a fantastic option, it isn't always the right thing to do. You can actually do some damage if you just throw everything into your recycling bin. Enter the pizza box. Though there are some obvious recycling bin no-no's, paper is usually a perfect



participant in the recycling game. So, why the warning? Unlike plastic or glass, where the recycling process includes heat, paper is broken down using water. And as the old adage clearly states, water and oil don't mix. That's right, throwing a used paper plate, napkin or stained pizza box in with the rest of the paper for recycling can actually do more harm than good. In fact, we're talking about 700 million dollars in contamination each year. Since the paper is mixed in large vats, and inspection at a recycling plant can only catch so much, it just takes a few contaminants to add oil to the watery pulp, and in turn, render the entire batch useless.

**FACT:** Though there are tons of paper types that can be recycled, make sure to follow the rules of your local recycling services for what works for you. Some can recycle envelopes with those peek-through windows, while others can't. Recycling is a game of knowledge, and knowing a little can get you a long way. For more information about the City of Highland's recycling program call 909-861-6861, ext. 271.

**3. Organic food is *always* better for the planet.** An organic banana from Chile that had to travel more than 5,000 miles to reach your table in Los Angeles, is not overall better than a conventional banana that was grown at a farm five miles from your home. It just doesn't add up. Though organic is a great attribute to look for when shopping for produce, it shouldn't be the only factor in consideration. Buying locally has a huge impact on a product's overall footprint.



**FACT:** Though organic may be a great asset, if local options are abundant and you have to make a decision between the two, make sure to weigh the pros and cons of each. For instance, though organic is better for water systems, soil health and bio diversity, when talking about the health effects of organic, one can be less worried about fruits and vegetables whose skins or outer leaves aren't eaten. For more delicate skins, the levels

of pesticides that can be absorbed is much greater. In fact, according to studies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Consumer Reports and the Environmental Working Group, 97.3 percent of nectarines sampled were found to contain pesticides.

**4. But the label said Eco!** Any time a trend or lifestyle gets popular, a lot of people try to get on the bandwagon. The good news is a lot of great ideas and products get created. The bad news, a lot of bad ones are too! This wouldn't be a big deal if consumers could easily tell the difference. Unfortunately lots of marketing can go into making sure you can't. According to the Natural Products Association, which represents more than 10,000 natural product companies and retailers, Americans spent \$7.5 billion in 2006 on personal care products that claimed to be all-natural but often were not. Thankfully there are some major regulations in place for some of the products we rely on. Organic, for example, is a statement that is regulated by state and federal agencies. According to Cathy Greene with the Economic Research Service/USDA, "Private organizations, mostly nonprofits, began developing certification standards in the early 1970's as a way to support organic farming and thwart fraud." For these reasons, most people feel confident in purchasing products labeled organic.

**FACT:** This same consumer confidence can be found in other green products with the help of labeling. Below are a few of the ones to watch for:

**ENERGY STAR** - This blue and white symbol can be found on products that have qualified as more energy efficient. To earn the ENERGY STAR, products must meet strict energy criteria that have been set in place by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the U.S. Department of Energy. These products include refrigerators, dish washers and light bulbs.



**Forest Stewardship Council** - The FSC has developed "a set of Principles and Criteria for forest management that is applicable to all FSC-certified forests throughout the world." These 10 principles and 50 plus criteria address multiple areas of forest management including indigenous rights, multiple benefits and environmental impacts. This tree-shaped logo can be found on products ranging from paper and printers to pulp mills.



**Good Housekeeping Green Seal** - This label bears a strong resemblance to its famous counterpart with the distinction of its color (green). The Green Good Housekeeping Seal will debut later this year, after the Good Housekeeping Research Institute and a consultancy firm complete development of product evaluation criteria. To be eligible for the green seal, a product must meet the criteria for the original seal of approval, as well as meet standards related to product composition, manufacturing and packaging.



**GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality** - These planet-toting logos can be found on building materials that are manufactured to help "improve indoor air." The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI) is a nonprofit organization that oversees the certification programs for building materials and indoor products. These logos let a consumer know that the products are regularly tested to meet chemical and particle emissions acceptable under IAQ pollutant guidelines and standards.



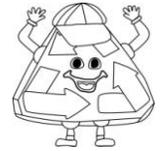
**Scientific Certification Systems** - This independent company gives certification of environmental, sustainability, food quality and food purity claims for products across the globe. Their extensive network covers consumer



goods such as produce, fisheries, forestry, eco-products and floral.

**Repete's Wisdom of the Week - Painting and Stormwater Pollution Prevention.**

Paints, solvents, and adhesives from your painting projects at home often make their way into the storm drain system and **DO NOT GET TREATED** before reaching the Santa Ana River. These wastes pollute our drinking water, and make our waters unhealthy and unsafe for people and wildlife.



Follow these practices to help prevent stormwater pollution...

**Water Based Paints:** Paints that are water-based are less toxic and should be used whenever possible. Look for these words on the product label "latex" or "cleanup with water."

**Paint Cleanup:** Avoid cleaning brushes and rinsing paint containers in a street, gutter, or storm drain. For water-based paints, "brush out" as much paint as possible and rinse in the sink. For oil-based paints, "brush out" as much paint as possible, clean with thinner, and then filter and reuse thinner or solvent.

**Recycle or Reuse Paints:** Recycle or reuse leftover paint by using it for touch-ups, or by giving it to someone who can use it, such as a theatre group, school or community organization.

**Disposal:** For that leftover paint you are unable to recycle or reuse, you can take it to the San Bernardino County Fire Department Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, located at 2824 East "W" Street San Bernardino, CA 92408) for **FREE**. Transport no more than 15 gallons in containers no larger than 5 gallons.

**\*Please note**, if you are a **business** that need to dispose of excess paint, please call 1-800-Oily Cat

to receive a copy of the brochure outlining the program and disposal fees.

For more information on proper disposal of paint or paint related products, please call 1-800-Oily Cat. For information of what you can do to prevent stormwater pollution, please call Public Services Coordinator, Andrea Saavedra 909-864-8732 ext 271.

## Volunteer Services

**Highland Improvement Team. Volunteers Wanted... June HIT - Residential Cleanup.** This Saturday, June 11, 2011 is our next Highland Improvement Team (HIT) cleanup.



The HIT project this Saturday will be to help a senior homeowner with green waste cleanup. He needs our help trimming back shrubs and trees as well as raking up dry leaves, pine needles and weeds. Please come out and join us in making a difference for a neighbor.

The cleanup will take place from 8am to noon. Please meet us at Highland City Hall, 27215 Baseline in Highland. Volunteers can begin signing in at 7:30 a.m. Volunteers are required to have their own transportation to and from the cleanup site. The City will provide all tools and equipment necessary for the cleanup as well as water to keep hydrated. As a token of appreciation, the City will host a BBQ at City Hall following the cleanup for those dedicating their time to this project. See you there!

If you should have any questions or need more information, please contact Denise Garnsey, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 909-864-6861 extension 203.

**Residential Cleanups Wanted...** The Highland Improvement Team is currently accepting requests for residential cleanups. We urge Highland homeowners who need help with

yard cleanup and minor landscaping to contact Volunteer Services as soon as possible. Requests are screened and scheduled on a first come first served basis. *The mission of the Highland Improvement Team is to improve the overall environment of our city for all residents and businesses.* Top priority is property cleanup projects for disabled and senior citizens. There are no income eligibility requirements and absolutely no charge to the homeowner. A fabulous team of volunteers completes all work and repair at H.I.T. projects.

Here are the few qualifications:

1. Must be 55 years and older or disabled
2. Must own and reside in your home

The Highland Improvement Team schedules one cleanup per month. Each cleanup requires enough work to fill the allotted four-hour period, usually from 8:00am to noon.

Do you qualify? If so, please contact Volunteer Services at 909-864-6861 extension 203.

## Administration

City to Start Solar Retrofit Project. The City Council has awarded a contract for the installation of solar panels on the roof of City Hall and the Highland Athletic Center. The project will start in the coming weeks with the installation of a foam cool roof at City Hall to support the solar panels. The majority of funding for this project is coming from federal funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

## Public Works

### Public Works Report - May 2011

Total Man-hours	1,276.5
Compensated Man-hours	919.5
Un-compensated Man-hours	357

### Man-Hour Per Activity

General Clean-up	104
Parkway Maintenance	3.25
Potholes	39
Sidewalk	0
Storm Drains	8
Signs/Traffic Control	8.75
Trees Trimmed	10.25
Vehicle/Tool Maintenance	30.75
Building/Grounds Maintenance	241.5
Landscape Maintenance District	66.75
Park Maintenance	260.8
Trail Maintenance	36
Special Maintenance	127
Crack Sealing	1
Graffiti	136.5
USA Markings	21.75
Weed Spraying	10
Staff Meetings	91.25
Safety Training	14.25

**SPECIAL:** Sandbag removal at various locations; collected sandbags at 6<sup>th</sup>/Victoria; filled-in sinkhole; put-up pole banners/flags for holiday; checked irrigation system at Highland Grove School; service requests.

### Mark Your Calendar



#### Saturday, June 11, 2011

8am to Noon (sign in @ 7:30am) - HIT Cleanup  
Meet @ City Hall - 27215 Baseline

#### Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Flag Day   
9am - Public Facilities Subcommittee Meeting, Upright Conference Room  
10am - Sign Review Ad Hoc Meeting, Upright Conference Room  
6pm - City Council Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

#### Tuesday, June 21, 2011

First Day of summer  
6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

#### Monday, June 27, 2011

4:00pm to 5:00pm -Blood Drive Committee Meeting, Jerry Lewis Community Center - 7793 Central Avenue

#### Tuesday, June 28, 2011

6pm - City Council Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

#### Monday, July 4, 2011

9am to 10:30am - Highland 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Route: Baseline & Church Ave west to Central and south to Hibiscus  
11am - July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic, Highland Community Park - 27003 Hibiscus  
4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday - City Offices are closed

#### Tuesday, July 5, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

#### Tuesday, July 12, 2011

6pm - City Council Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

#### Thursday, July 14, 2011

5pm - Community Trails Committee Regular Meeting has been cancelled

#### Tuesday, July 19, 2011

6pm - Planning Commission Regular Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

#### Monday, July 25, 2011

1:30pm to 6:30pm - Community Blood Drive  
Jerry Lewis Community Center - 7793 Central Avenue

#### Tuesday, July 26, 2011

6pm - City Council Meeting, Donahue Council Chambers

*Assembled by: Elena Rodrigues*

