

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



City of Downey
562-904-7102
www.downeyca.org
Winter 2010



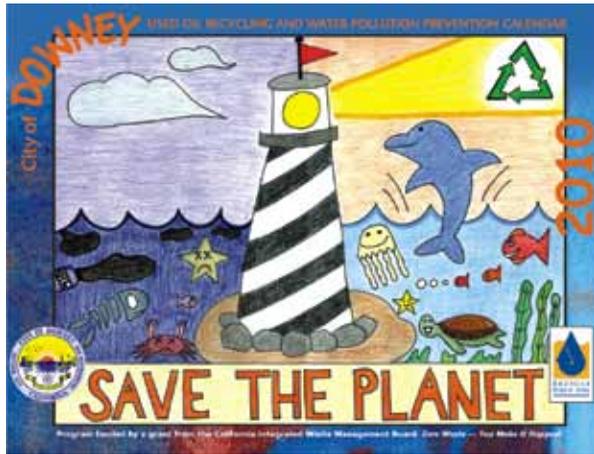
2010 Used Oil Recycling and Water Pollution Prevention Calendar

This is the 12th year the City has produced a yearly calendar featuring the artwork of our talented and creative children. This contest was made available to fifth grade students in the public and private schools in Downey, and we received 355 entries for this year's contest.

This calendar is a tool to teach us all about the importance of protecting our community by keeping our waterways clean and clear. Student artists help promote recycling of used motor oil and filters, as well as water pollution prevention. They remind us that everything which enters storm drains, such as trash, chemicals, and automotive fluids, flows directly to the ocean. This year's calendar also features information on water conservation. The winning students were recognized at a City Council meeting in December, where the winners were congratulated by Mayor Anne Bayer and presented with a medallion, gift certificates, and other great prizes.

The grand-prize winner's artwork is featured on the calendar cover. The calendar artwork winners are:

- Grand Prize – Jonathan Jin, Rio San Gabriel Elementary School (Cover)
- First Prize – Olivia Gawergy, Old River Elementary School (January)
- Second Prize – Valeria Eduardo, Old River Elementary School (February)
- Honorable Mention – Cristina Tejada, St. Raymond School (March)
- Honorable Mention – Andre Arellano, Unsworth Elementary School (April)
- Honorable Mention – Mikaela Dagundon, Rio Hondo Elementary School (May)
- Honorable Mention – Lucia Rios, Lewis



- Elementary School (June)
- Honorable Mention – Melissa Morales, Rio San Gabriel Elementary School (July)
- Honorable Mention – Ericka Pelaez, Maude Price Elementary School (August)
- Honorable Mention – Taylor Choung, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (September)
- Honorable Mention – Mark Iniguez, Rio Hondo Elementary School (October)
- Honorable Mention – Rodrigo Coba, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School (November)
- Honorable Mention – Barbara Astudillo, Gallatin Elementary School (December)

The City thanks its used oil consultant, Kevin Sales of KJServices Environmental Consulting. KJServices presented the calendar contest assemblies at the schools and coordinated the production and printing of the calendar, which was paid for by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

The City also wishes to thank the following sponsors of the calendar for their contribution of prizes for the students: Stonewood Center, Penske Toyota, Honda World of Downey, All American Home Center, Golf 'N' Stuff, Downey Civic Light Opera Association, Aquarium of the Pacific, Kaiser Permanente, Import Car Service, Frantone's Pizza and Spaghetti Villa, Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill, and Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf.

Free Landscape Workshop



© iStockphoto.com / Marje Cannon

Do you have questions about your irrigation system? Do you wonder what the best California friendly plants are for our climate? Does your soil need amending? If so, then you're the perfect candidate to attend the City's free Landscape Workshop.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 13, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Auditorium at the Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center, 7810 Quill Drive in Downey.

The presenter, Tim Wheeler, a horticulturist from the Wheeler Company, teaches the ba-

sics of Soils and Fertilizers, Irrigation Systems and Scheduling, California Friendly Plants, and Landscape Design Basics. Mr. Wheeler will be on hand at the end of the workshop to answer your questions.

Come and join other resident gardeners and learn about "Friendly Gardening" for the water-wise gardener. For registration or additional information, call the City of Downey's Public Works Administration Office at 562-904-7159 or 562-904-7103.

Free mulch giveaway

CalMet Services, Inc., will be providing Downey residents with up to 32 gallons of mulch for springtime planting. Please bring your own containers. The giveaway will take place at the Downey City Hall Parking Lot, 11111 Brookshire Avenue, on Saturday, March 27, between 9 a.m. and noon. For more information, call CalMet Services at 562-259-1239.



Certified Used Oil Collection Centers

AutoZone, 9920 Paramount Blvd., 562-776-3393 – Mon-Sat: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

AutoZone, 13028 Paramount Blvd., 562-869-1545 – Mon-Sun: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Firestone Complete Auto Care*, 9030 Cecilia, 562-869-1597 – Mon-Sat: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jiffy Lube*, 12556 Lakewood Blvd., 562-869-7800, and 7501 Firestone Blvd., 562-927-8806 – Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat-Sun: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Downey Nissan*, 7550 Firestone Blvd., 562-334-1089 – Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Honda World Downey*, 11136 Dollison Drive, 562-929-7000 – Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kragen Auto Parts*, 7839 Firestone Blvd., 562-861-9971 – Mon-Sat: 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Pep Boys*, 10231 Lakewood Blvd., 562-861-9909 – Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sat: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sun: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Downey Pontiac GMC Buick*, 7255 E. Firestone Blvd., 562-928-3333 – Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Import Car Service*, 12107 Lakewood Blvd., 562-923-2814 – Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Penske Toyota*, 9136 E. Firestone Blvd., 562-904-5600 – Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Oil Filters also accepted

PRESORTED
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ECRWSS

City of Downey
Public Works Dept.
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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

No Impact Man

Colin Beavan had written two books of history when he decided he'd like to write about the environment. But rather than a how-to book, he chose a lifestyle experiment. He set out to answer the question, "Could I, at least for one year, live my life doing more good than harm?" So he, his wife, their baby daughter, and the family dog began their "No Impact" year with the goal of creating as little negative environmental impact as possible. Garbage was the first thing to go, followed by automated transportation, non-local food, new products, and, eventually, most electricity.

Throughout the year, Beavan wrote a blog following the ups and downs of the family's experiment, from giving up shopping to living without elevators (the family lives on the ninth floor of a New York City apartment building). Beavan and his wife, Michelle Conlin, found unexpected pleasure in giving up TV for more reading, outings in the city, and family time with little Isabella. However, trying to do laundry without using the automatic washing machine was a less welcome change. After finishing the No Impact year, the family kept many of the new habits. For instance, they have continued to frequent the farmers market to purchase in-season, regionally-grown foods, and they still use their bikes for much of their transportation. Other habits they have given up. They did switch the electricity back on, but they waste less of it today.

During the project, Beavan struggled to find a way to get what he and his family needed in the most sustainable way possible. Throughout, he continued to ask how he could make a difference. In the book, *No Impact Man*, which records the family's experiment in low-impact living, Beavan concludes, "The job is simply this: to live our lives as though we make a difference. Because, paradoxically, when we imagine we don't make a difference, that is when we do the most harm." In the end, he found that perhaps he had been asking the wrong question. The question is not, is he the type of person who can make a difference, but rather, "whether I'm the type of person who wants to try."

The family's year is also the subject of a

documentary film, also titled *No Impact Man*, which was released in the fall.

Learn more about the project at www.noimpactman.com.



Photos courtesy of Oscilloscope Laboratories

Conscious Consumption

No Impact Man's experiment was a bit extreme. However, learning to be a more conscious consumer can be good for your family, your bank account, and our economy. Colin Beavan's wife, Michelle Conlin, who is a writer and editor at *BusinessWeek*, recently wrote in the magazine's blog, *The Case for Optimism*: "So much talk of sustainability hinges on being less bad. Less plastic. Less packaging. Less resource use. But less bad isn't the answer. The true value comes from delivering more good."

Conscious consumption is about this process of creating "more good." For you, it might be about mak-

ing things with your own hands or moving yourself from place to place with your own human-powered legs. It might be about enjoying the beauty and craft that have gone into creating a lovely and well-designed object. It might be about recycling and reusing more of what you need and use. It might be about understanding how things are made and where the resources originated that are needed to make them. It might be about finding quiet and enjoying the company of the people you love.

For more information, visit www.newdream.org/consumption/.

Plenty of projects with "plarn"

RecycleCindy, owner of My Recycled Bags, creates bags and many other clever items from "plarn," which is yarn made from plastic. The plastic comes from old grocery bags, bread wrappers, cassette tapes, and VHS videotapes. She sometimes uses scrap fabric from denim, bed sheets, and rags, as well. Whatever the material, Cindy crochets clever purses, shoulder bags, totes, and water bottle holders. She also makes dishcloths, pot handle covers, and a variety of other items. She sells many of these items through her website. Each item is one of a kind.

Not content to crochet only her own plarn, RecycleCindy also posts patterns and instructions so that her readers can learn to make their own bags, doll clothes, baby bibs, and much more. Her website includes a step-by-step guide for making your own plarn.

To learn more about making your own plarn creations (or to buy one of RecycleCindy's), visit www.myrecycledbags.com.



A Care Tag for Our Planet

Proper care can extend the life of everything from your refrigerator to your favorite pair of jeans. That's why Goodwill has teamed up with Levi Strauss & Co. on an initiative to promote longer use and more reuse of jeans. The program, A Care Tag for Our Planet, offers consumers instructions for washing less frequently in cold water and line drying to keep the jeans looking and feeling great longer. When the items are no longer wanted, the tag reminds consumers not to throw away the jeans but to donate them to Goodwill for reuse by another consumer.

Washing clothes only when they are dirty and using proper temperature settings and mild detergents will help your clothes last longer. A commitment to reuse by selling or donating unneeded clothes can dramatically reduce the amount of clothing waste headed to landfills. Textile waste, including clothing and other fabric items, tops 12 million tons each year in the U.S. Of this, only about 15% is being recycled.



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Recycling holds steady

Did you know?

Every ton of mixed paper recycled can save the energy equivalent of 185 gallons of gasoline.

Recycling just 1 ton of aluminum cans conserves the equivalent of 1,665 gallons of gasoline.

By recycling and composting 83 million tons of municipal solid waste, we reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an amount equivalent to removing more than 33 million cars from the road, and we saved an amount of energy equivalent to 10.2 billion gallons of gasoline.

Source: *Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2008*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently released its annual report, "Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States," for 2008. Not surprisingly, as the economy slid into recession last year, the total volume of waste generated declined, coming in at just under 250 million tons. This was the first significant decline in nearly 50 years.

Per capita waste generation, or the average amount of waste created per person per day, fell to 4.5 pounds. Per capita generation had already been on the decline before the recession, but fell more substantially in 2008. The pre-2008 decline had been credited to waste reduction and reuse activities, but the 2008 change can most likely be linked to the recession. The per capita waste generation rate has not been this low since 1990.

At the same time, recycling held steady as a percentage of total waste generation, with 33.2% of all waste either recycled or composted. Since 1980, the percentage of waste landfilled has dropped from 89% to just over 54%.

National recycling rates by material were also included in the report. Auto batteries continue to top the list with a recycling rate of 99.2%, followed by office-type papers at 70.9%, yard trimmings at 64.7%, steel cans at 62.8%, and aluminum beverage cans at 48.2%. Other containers, including glass and plastic bottles, jugs, and jars, were recycled at a rate of about 27 to 29%.

The EPA has been collecting and reporting on solid waste annually for more than 30 years. To see the 2008 report, visit www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm.

fast facts

Here's an "app" for you!

Earth911.com has launched a new app for iPhone users. iRecycle is a free mobile version featuring Earth911's helpful information and designed to assist users in finding recycling and event information on the go. To learn more, visit <http://earth911.com/products-overview/iphone/>.

If you are out and need information, but you don't have the app, call 1-800-CLEANUP to reach Earth911. You can also use your smart phone or PDA to access the website, www.Earth911.com.

Earth911 provides useful background information on reducing, reusing, and recycling and maintains a database featuring more than 100,000 recycling locations around the country.



Keep it or toss it?

How many times have you stood at the refrigerator asking yourself this question? Now, an easy-to-use website has answers for you. Whether you are wondering how long you can keep opened cheese, if the milk is still good, or what to do with the crisper full of veggies that you really meant to eat, this is the website for you! You'll find it particularly helpful when you face the dreaded condiment shelf in your fridge. Learn more at www.stilltasty.com.



Hitting the right notes

So you are a music lover? And you also want to take good care of the planet? Easy. Download music and put it directly onto your computer and portable music player, such as an iPod, MP3 player, or Zune. A recent study compared the energy use and greenhouse gas emissions of buying CDs at the store or from an online retailer, downloading music and burning it onto CDs at home, and downloading for digital use on the computer and portable player. Not surprisingly, the digital download had the lowest energy use and emissions, as well as the least amount of potential waste from packaging.

Recycling on a roll

The average person in the U.S. uses more than 20,805 sheets of toilet paper annually. Unfortunately, recycled-content paper makes up less than 2% of the toilet tissue used each year. Recycled-content tissue products, including toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissues, are readily available at grocers, pharmacies, and national retail chains. Not only does recycled-content tissue reduce the demand on forests and tree farms, but it also provides an essential market for our recyclable mixed paper. Next time you shop, give recycled-content tissue a try.



QUOTES REQUOTED

I shall walk softly there,
And learn by going where I have to go.
Theodore Roethke, 1908-1963
American poet



Keep Downey Beautiful Cleanup Schedule

Volunteers will be assigned to clean up areas around each of these locations:
January 16 – Florence Avenue at Wiley Burke Avenue (medians on south side)
February 20 – Imperial Highway at Dunrobin Avenue (medians on south side)
March 20 – Firestone Boulevard from Lakewood Boulevard to Woodruff Avenue (Meet in Arby's parking lot.)
April 17 – Paramount Boulevard and Conrad Street (Meet in Alin Party Depot parking lot.)

All cleanups are from 9 to 10 a.m. There is no need to register. Just plan to arrive at the location by 9 a.m. Anyone under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear closed-toe shoes. All cleanups are sponsored by Stonewood Shopping Center.



Redeem your California Refund Value (CRV) bottles and cans! For more information, including redemption locations, visit www.bottlesandcans.com.



City of Downey Public Works Department
 1111 Brookshire Ave.
 P.O. Box 7016
 Downey, CA 90241-7016
 562-904-7102
www.downeyca.org



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Please recycle this publication after you have read it!



This newsletter is partially funded by a grant from the California Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling

2010 Beautification Awards Program

Applications are now being accepted for the 26th Annual Beautification Awards Program sponsored by Keep Downey Beautiful. Downey residents and businesses are invited to nominate their own properties or a neighbor's home or business in the community worthy of a beautification award.

Keep Downey Beautiful is looking for homes and businesses in the City that have just undergone property improvements which contribute to enhancing their neighborhood in a positive manner, such as landscaping and remodeling.

In an effort to continue our environmental awareness and activism, KDB is announcing a new criteria by which properties will be judged in addition to the prior categories. The new category will recognize those who creatively integrate drought-tolerant plants and water conservation into their gardens.

Properties will be judged only from what is visible from the front curb of their street. Judges will not be permitted to enter the property.

Award applications can be found in your water bills beginning in January. Applications are being accepted through March 31, 2010.

For additional information, please call Keep Downey Beautiful at 562-904-7159.

Street Sweeping & Trash Collection Schedule

Observed Holidays	City Hall Closed	Sweeping	Trash
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1	No	No
Martin Luther King's Birthday	Monday, January 18	Yes	Yes
Presidents' Day	Monday, February 15	Yes	Yes
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31	No	No
Independence Day	Monday, July 5	Yes	Yes
Labor Day	Monday, September 6	No	No
Veterans' Day	Thursday, November 11	Yes	Yes
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 25	No	No
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 26	No	Yes
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 23	Yes	Yes
Christmas Day	Friday, December 24	Yes	Yes
New Year's Day 2011	Friday, December 31	Yes	Yes

Street Sweeping

When there is no street sweeping, it *will not be made up*. Streets are always swept on the posted day.

Trash Collection

When there is no trash collection, it *will be made up*. Trash will be collected the day after the normal collection day for the remainder of the week. For example, Friday's trash will be collected on Saturday.

Please Note

On a few of the holidays, the schedule causes trash collection to be on the same day as street sweeping for the remainder of the week. During these times, we request that the trash barrels be placed up on the curb so as not to hinder the street sweeper.

Questions?

Trash Collection: CalMet Services, 562-259-1239
 Street Sweeping: Utilities Division, 562-904-1452
 Parking Enforcement: Police Department, 562-904-2342

What about hazardous waste?

Hazardous waste doesn't belong in recycling or trash carts. Hazardous waste, including household, garden, and automotive chemicals, as well as batteries, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, and computers and electronics, must be disposed at special facilities. Why? Because if the containers or cases break open, chemicals leak into our water, spill onto our soil, or evaporate into our air, putting people and the environment at risk.

You can safely dispose of hazardous household waste and electronic waste free of charge at the weekly, countywide Household Hazardous and Electronic Waste Collection events. Upcoming events to be held nearby include: **January 9** at the Paramount Swap Meet, 7900 All American City Way (off Paramount Boulevard); **January**

16 at the Bell City Yard, 5820 Gage Avenue; **January 30** at the Rio Hondo College Fire Training Academy, 11400 Greenstone Avenue, Santa Fe Springs; **March 13** at Southern California Gas Company, 8101 Rosemead Boulevard, Pico Rivera; and **April 10** at Lynwood City Streets, at Butler Avenue and Bellinger Street. All of these events are open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You can also dispose of these items at the S.A.F.E. Centers, which are open year-round. The nearest is the Washington Boulevard S.A.F.E. Center at 2649 East Washington Boulevard in Los Angeles. It is open weekly on Saturdays and Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, call 1-888-CLEAN-LA or visit <http://ladpw.org/epd/hhw/>.

Arbor Day Celebration 2010

California's Arbor Day celebration is the week of March 7-14, chosen because it is the best time of year to plant trees in California. Our state tree is the California Redwood.

Arbor Day is a national celebration of trees with a long and glorious history. National Arbor Day is recognized in all 50 U.S. states and is a special day that promotes and honors tree planting and tree care, as well as the many benefits that trees provide to people. The National Arbor Day Foundation encourages and supports the celebration of Arbor Day.

Arbor Day was first celebrated in the state of Nebraska in 1872. This Nebraska Arbor Day was set up in response to a state proclamation urging settlers and homesteaders to plant trees to provide "shade, shelter, fruit, fuel and beauty" for residents of the largely treeless plains. On that first Arbor Day, more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska's communities and on its farms.

To learn more about Arbor Day, visit www.arborday.org.



Create an individual Arbor Day celebration!

- Celebrate Arbor Day in a personal way by planting a tree yourself. It is an act of optimism and kindness, a labor of love, and a commitment to stewardship.
- Read a book about trees. Learn to identify trees in your yard and neighborhood. Visit www.arborday.org/trees/whattree/ for tree identification tips.
- Enjoy the outdoors. Visit a local park or take a nature hike.
- Attend a class on tree and plant care.

Beautiful is Good.

One simple call can help keep Downey beautiful!

Abandoned Shopping Carts
 800-252-4613

Graffiti Removal
 562-923-4484

Illegal Dumping
 562-904-1161

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
 888-CLEAN-LA

