

County of Santa Cruz



# CURBSIDER

DECEMBER 2013

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# Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Now open for just over a year, Habitat for Humanity's ReStore has exceeded expectations, filling a 17,000 square foot warehouse on Santa Cruz's Westside with donations from four counties. "We've hit a nice comfortable stride," says co-manager Mark Burden. Staff is selective at intake, learning what will sell. "We can't afford to store items that won't sell. We have to pay rent," he adds. Drawing the line at cheap particleboard furniture, Mark hopes their policy helps educate people regarding the importance of quality pieces built to last several generations. "We all need to move away from one-time use and throw away items."

In a corner of the warehouse, a repair shop is dedicated to restoring worn but durable wood furniture to improve its value and extend its usefulness. Though the ReStore's goal is to repurpose everything, some items just don't sell, requiring the monthly recycling of a bin of scrap metal and a weekly dump run.

A tax deductible receipt from the well-known and respected Habitat name encourages businesses to donate samples and returned, overstocked or discontinued items. Contractors often contribute surplus materials, and homeowners take advantage of free pickup service when moving, remodeling or downsizing. Homeowners comprise the majority of ReStore's donors and customers.

After covering rent and some staff salaries (many volunteers assist at the store), 100% of store proceeds go to local home building projects. The first year of operation generated revenue about equal to the cost of the materials needed to build one home. Habitat's current project, a 1300 square foot home on Santa Cruz's Eastside, is nearly ready for move-in by a family selected by Habitat based on their need and contribution of hundreds of hours of "sweat equity" labor. Last year Habitat completed 3 homes in Scotts Valley, and next year they will begin a 7-unit project in Live Oak.

The proven ReStore model developed by Habitat for Humanity International (800 ReStores are now operating throughout the U.S.) and the organization's good name were key to the successful launch of the Santa Cruz store by local affiliate Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County.

David Foster, executive director of Santa Cruz's Habitat for Humanity chapter, describes three very important purposes of the ReStore: "Its primary mission is to provide additional funding to support local home building goals, provide quality materials at affordable prices, and to foster good stewardship of sustainable and reusable resources within the community of Santa Cruz County. We wanted to be part of the green building movement, to recycle materials, to find new life for building materials, and keep them out of the landfill."

While the store does a brisk business in quality furniture, most of the space is devoted to building materials such as lumber, plumbing, electrical, tile, kitchen and bath cabinets, construction hardware, windows, doors, tools, and appliances. Prices for new or lightly used items are often half of retail.

A visit to the store turned up several rare and unusual items: virgin growth redwood and Douglas fir planks; a 100-year old Glenwood wood-burning gas range; and a 150-year old Shaker cabinet.

The ReStore, located at 719 Swift Street, is open Thursdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Donations are accepted when the store is open or by scheduling a free pick-up. Contact the ReStore at (831) 824-4704 or [restore@habitatasc.org](mailto:restore@habitatasc.org). Habitat's building projects and the ReStore both rely heavily on assistance from volunteers. Sign up at [www.habitatasc.org](http://www.habitatasc.org).

*Cover photo: ReStore lumber and hardware offerings.*

*Above: A sample of ReStore's variety, and a home built with its proceeds.*

# Resources for Reuse

## Used Building Materials

These used building materials stores offer architectural salvage, new and used building materials including lumber, flooring, tile, doors, windows, cabinets, plumbing fixtures/hardware, electrical fixtures/hardware, plus garden and landscaping items such as fountains and benches.

### Habitat for Humanity ReStore

719 Swift Street, Suite 62, Santa Cruz • 824-4704

Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Capitola Freight & Salvage

1575 38th Avenue, Santa Cruz • 465-6990

Open 7 days a week 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Last Chance Mercantile

14201 Del Monte Blvd, Marina • 384-5313

Open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Thrift Stores

Thrift stores sell and accept donations of usable clothing, shoes, house wares, and sometimes furniture. Sales at these non-profits support community benefit programs.

### Abbot's Thrift Shop

6164 Highway 9, Felton • 335-0606

### California Grey Bears Thrift Store

2710 Chanticleer Ave, Live Oak • 479-1055

### Caroline's Thrift Store

402 Trout Gulch Rd, Aptos • 662-0327

### Goodwill Store

204 Union St, Santa Cruz • 423-1078

### Goodwill Bargain Outlet

292 Pioneer St, Santa Cruz • 423-8611

### Goodwill Store

103 Whispering Pines Dr, Scotts Valley • 430-9029

### Goodwill Store

1550 41st Ave, Capitola • 462-1300

### Goodwill Store

470 Main St, Watsonville • 722-2376

### Salvation Army Thrift Store

812 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz • 429-8118

### St. John's Helpful Shop

101 Capitola Ave, Capitola • 475-0957

### Thrift Center Thrift Store

521 Front St, Santa Cruz • 429-6975

In addition, at least sixteen boutique thrift stores and consignment shops that buy, sell and trade quality used clothing and accessories promote reuse in our community.



California Grey Bears Thrift Store volunteer Susan Duncan

## Why Reuse?

While all three of the R's — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle — are important, their effects on the environment are not equal.

**Reduce:** Reducing use of resources such as turning lights off when not in use, or not buying an unnecessary item, completely avoids any environmental footprint.

**Recycle:** When discards are recycled into new products, environmentally destructive mineral extraction and logging required to produce virgin products are avoided because the raw materials are essentially “mined” from the local waste stream.

Still, cans, bottles and paper tossed in the blue recycling cart have a long journey before they return to the store shelf as useful commodities. They must be melted, crushed or pulped into basic feedstock before being fashioned anew.

**Reuse:** Reusing a product in its original form offers the benefits of avoiding the energy and labor-intensive industrial processes of manufacturing the product over again. Waste and pollution associated with manufacturing is also avoided.

A variety of opportunities for reuse are available locally, including garage sales, thrift stores, consignment shops, and used building materials yards.

Whether you are looking for bargains, retro style, well-worn patina, or craftsmanship from a bygone era, REUSE is the answer.

# How Green is Your Business?



*New Green Businesses honored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on October 25, 2013*

**Do you recycle? Conserve water?  
Turn the lights off when not in use?**

**Wouldn't you want a company you do  
business with to do the same?**

The California Green Business Program is a means for businesses to gain recognition for active and measured changes that prevent pollution, conserve resources and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Local program coordinators provide free expert technical assistance to small and medium-sized businesses in all environmental arenas: air, water, wastewater, storm water, energy, solid waste, and hazardous materials and waste. Businesses achieving a minimum level of environmental compliance and sustainability become Certified Green Businesses and benefit from free promotion.

The voluntary program has been building momentum for over a decade and was recognized by state law in 2011. A network of government, non-profit, and for-profit agencies oversee the statewide program and implement it locally.

The Green Business Program measures success through a central web-based database system. Approximately 2,700 businesses throughout the state have so far reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 170,000 tons and saved 38 gigawatt hours of electrical power.

A business may seek Green Business certification by contacting the County's Green Business Coordinator at (831) 454-2160 or by applying online at [www.greenbusinessca.org](http://www.greenbusinessca.org).

The website lists 295 Certified Green Businesses in Santa Cruz County, which can be searched by business name, location or specialty.

## Green Businesses Speak

### **Alan Rice Automotive (Soquel)**

"We chose to participate in the Green Business Program because we believe playing an active role in preserving the environment is an important aspect to conducting business. We have always paid close attention to minimizing the impact my business leaves and are now better able to communicate that to our customers."

### **Bay Building Janitorial (Live Oak)**

"We conduct our business with respect and care for our environment and implement strategies that achieve the greatest benefit for everyone. The Green Business Program has proven to be a valued partner in achieving these goals."

### **Charlie Hong Kong Restaurant (Santa Cruz)**

"Our intention is to operate our business in a sustainable manner. We follow the core values: to conserve, protect, and respect the natural and human environment. We are committed to serving organic food, buying locally grown produce, and using local vendors as much as possible. We appreciate the recognition and collaboration of other businesses. Thank you to the County and City of Santa Cruz for taking on this important project."



# Holiday Reuse Ideas

- Instead of buying a new gift, pass on a treasured heirloom with priceless sentimental value.
- Wrap gifts in the comic pages of the newspaper, and decorate with reused ribbons and bows.
- Use the front panels of greeting cards as holiday post cards or gift tags.
- Use china plates, glass tumblers, metal cutlery, and cloth napkins to add elegance to your holiday gathering while avoiding a lot of single-use disposables – your gift to the planet.



## New Rules for Waste Haulers

Santa Cruz County ordinance requires that all commercial waste hauling in the unincorporated county be regulated, which means the hauling company has a formal agreement with the County and must abide by locally established safety and performance standards.

Curbside collection is already franchised to GreenWaste Recovery. County Supervisors are moving to bring more of the waste-hauling industry into compliance. Beginning in January 2014, all commercial waste haulers which provide roll-off boxes, compactors or trailers of 10 cubic yards or larger, must be franchised in order to do business in unincorporated areas. Among the new requirements are that all waste haulers must also provide recycling services, and that no recyclables may be placed in the trash.

Hauling companies, as well as those residents and businesses who employ such services, are obligated to comply with the new ordinance. The new rules do not limit the option of any resident or business to haul their own trash and recycling to the landfill or transfer station.

For more information, please contact Tim Goncharoff at Santa Cruz County Public Works at (831) 454-2160.



## Holiday Tree Recycling

**CURBSIDE:** GreenWaste Recovery will pick up customers' trees curbside from Jan 2-17, 2014. Please cut to 3' lengths.

**DROP-OFF:** Specially marked bins for recycling trees will be placed at many fire stations and other community sites from Dec 26 - Jan 19. For locations call (831) 454-2160 or visit [www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org](http://www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org).

Please remove tinsel, decorations and non-wood stands. No flocked trees accepted.



# HOLIDAY TREE RECYCLING

Curbside pickup and drop-off locations for trees through January 19, 2014. See details on page 5.

For more information call (831) 454-2160 or visit [www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org](http://www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org)



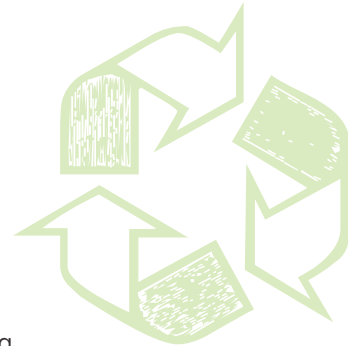
**County of Santa Cruz Public Works**  
701 Ocean Street, Room 410  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2160

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Complete Mailing  
Service, Inc.



Printed on 55% recycled 30% post-consumer waste paper processed chlorine-free, using soy-based inks.

## Recycling Resources



### Recycle Information Line ..... 831-454-2333

- What and where to recycle (recorded messages)

### Curbside Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection ..... 800-665-2209

(Operated by GreenWaste Recovery) [www.greenwaste.com](http://www.greenwaste.com)

- Begin new service
- Report missed recycling or trash service
- Request delivery or removal of carts
- Obtain oil recycling jugs

### County Public Works Dept. .... 831-454-2160

[www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org](http://www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org)

- Apartments and business recycling inquiries
- Complaints, compliments or suggestions
- Report roadside trash ..... 831-477-3999

### Household Hazardous Waste ..... 831-454-2606

(recorded messages)

- Schedule for free disposal
- Non-hazardous alternatives
- Free surplus paint

### Composting Resources

[www.compostsantacruzcounty.org](http://www.compostsantacruzcounty.org)

### Buena Vista Landfill & Recycling Center ..... 831-454-5153

- Recorded information ..... 831-454-2430

### Ben Lomond Transfer Station & Recycling Center ..... 831-336-3951

- Recorded information ..... 831-454-2430

### City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility & Recycling Center ..... 831-420-6270

- Open to unincorporated county residents in Davenport and Bonny Doon only

### California Grey Bears Recycling Centers ..... 831-479-1055

- Chanticleer Avenue
- Buena Vista Landfill

### SLV Redemption/Recycling Centers ..... 831-335-1728

(Operated by the Valley Women's Club)

- Felton
- Boulder Creek
- Ben Lomond Transfer Station