

A PROBLEM BREWING FOR ZERO WASTE

Many, Many, Many More Single-Use Plastic Pods Coming Our Way!



Macleans Photo Illustration by S MacKinnon and R Redditt

According to Murray Carpenter, author of *Caffeinated: How Our Daily Habit Helps, Hurts, and Hooks Us*, the 35.6 billion Keurig Green Mountain, Inc. pods sold since 2007 would encircle the globe more than 45 times! And they are not the only ones manufacturing pods. Now with the addition of soup - Campbell's Soup and cold beverages - from Coca-Cola, Dr. Pepper Snapple and at least 10 other beverage companies, pods are multiplying geometrically.

Yes, some of these 2 inch plastic and/or mixed material cups are reusable, some are recyclable - if you can get them apart - plastic, paper metal, and some are compostable. In an effort to appear more sustainable, earlier this year Keurig promised that by 2020, 100% of their pods will be recyclable. Unfortunately even if they were all theoretically divertable does not mean many would actually be diverted. Most US recycling programs do not accept #7 plastics nor are they set up to deal with piles of tiny plastic cups. Just like the problem of biodegradable plastic beverage containers, it is hard to tell recyclable pods from compostable pods and non-recyclable pods.

The purpose of this collection of clipped articles is to entertain as well as get you to think about the priorities of sustainable design and to brainstorm alternatives for convenience loving consumers who want individuated beverages in a hurry. **Hint - the inventor of the K-Cup has some ideas!** Check out the Continuing Education section on page 4!



KILL THE K-CUP BEFORE IT KILLS US!

This video went viral early in 2015. It features all the single-use pods ever thrown away attacking the people of Earth. It includes a petition calling on Keurig to make universally recyclable -cups now - not by 2020.

Read more... Kill The K-Cup:

<http://www.killthekcup.org/>

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MURDER...BETRAYAL...ALUMINUM - A review of *Wasted*, a new novel about recycling set in Berkeley - See page 8

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

NCRA is a non-profit trade organization of recycling businesses, community groups, municipalities and individuals. We promote waste reduction, reuse, salvaging, recycling and composting as vital tools for resource and energy conservation and cost-effective, environmentally sound methods of disposing of discards.

Founded in 1978, the majority of our members are located in Northern California; we also have members across the US.

The Board of Directors meets monthly except in March, August and December. All interested parties are welcome to attend. The annual Membership meeting is in January and the Picnic is in September.

Not a member yet? Please join and encourage your associates to join. **Membership** is \$52 per year via PayPal or \$60 via check. For more information visit www.ncrarecycles.org, look for us on Facebook and Twitter and/or send a note to:

Office: ncra@ncrarecycles.org
Activities: activities@ncrarecycles.org
Newsletter: news@ncrarecycles.org

NCRA News is a benefit of membership. Published monthly, it is available on the website in the Members Only area as a downloadable pdf. An abbreviated version and the pdf is sent to members monthly via email. In the future, sample or public versions will be available on the website.

NOVEMBER 2015 CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you Laura McKaughan, Arthur Boone, David Tam, Liz Bortolotto, Tom Wright, Dan Knapp, Editor Portia Sinnott and the members of NCRA's 6 Committees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AERC TOUR AND NCRA BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, TOUR: 4PM, HAYWARD

DINNER/BOARD MEETING: 6 - 8:30PM, UNION CITY

Organized by Jennifer Cutter and AERC host, Frank Alioto, RSVP here [AERC](#) is one of the largest universal waste and electronics recycler in Northern California. For over 25 years AERC has managed end-of-life for assets containing sensitive data and components hazardous to our environment. Their Hayward facility is a R2/RIOS Certified Electronics Recycler™ location. Each AERC facility is fully EPA permitted and complies with all state & federal EPA, OSHA, and DOT Regulations. AERC recognizes that environmental management is one of their highest corporate priorities and conducts all aspects of its business accordingly. Their mission is to keep these hazardous materials out of landfills and the environment through industry leadership and responsible recycling.

Our tour will be led by AERC Western Region Vice President, Frank Alioto. Tour starts at 4:00pm at [1475 Crocker Avenue, Hayward, CA 94544](#). The board dinner and meeting will be held offsite afterwards at 5:30pm. It will be held at the Ruggieri Senior Center: [33997 Alvarado Niles Rd. Union City, CA 94587](#). The board meeting starts at 6:00pm.

Tour space is limited. If you plan to join us for the tour and/or dinner, please [RSVP to \[ncra@ncrarecycles.org\]\(mailto:ncra@ncrarecycles.org\)](#) with "RSVP NCRA November 18" in the subject line ASAP. Members are free; non-member diners will be asked to pay an equal share of the food bill. Public transit and carpooling is encouraged. AC Transit buses run from South Hayward BART. If you need help with transportation, include a note with your RSVP. [Driving directions to AERC from South Hayward BART](#).

NCRA HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Sunday, December 6, 4-9pm, home of John T Hanscom and family, [2744 Belrose Ave](#), Berkeley near Claremont Ave. Wonderful food, Champagne, beer and wine welcome as well as ugly sweaters, stories, poems and 3R sisters song reprisals. Kids (and you!) welcome for trampoline fun. Bring friends and family for this rousing good time.

HELP STEER TOWARD ZERO WASTE! SERVE ON THE NCRA BOARD

Want to be at the heart of a thought-leading recycling organization? NCRA has been leading in that direction for more than a decade and is still out front. You can help develop the cutting edge by serving on the Board of Directors.

NCRA will have board positions open in the January. It's a two-year working post. Attendance at nearly all ten meetings a year is important, as is between-meeting work on at least one committee. Meetings move around the greater Bay Area. Phone participation is possible at some but not at all locations especially tour sites. Directors discuss issues, hear debates, and influence regional and national recycling thinking. They track and comment on legislation; listen to leaders in the regional industry; work on behalf of colleagues who need a boost; tackle issues that can't be ignored; tour facilities; and talk business with operators. Benefits include free entrance to the annual Recycling Update.

To run, submit a campaign statement of up to 200 words. Say who you are and why you'd like to serve. Include your LinkedIn page link. [Here](#) are last year's statements.

Thank You - 2015 Recycling Update Sponsors!



Notify [NCRA staff](#) by December 6 that you want to run. Before midnight on December 10, send in your statement with contact information to ncra@ncrarecycles.org. The ballot will be presented to the members electronically.

Voting will be conducted electronically from approximately January 5-14. Results will be announced at the members' meeting January 21. So help build your industry! Have fun with your colleagues! Get your statement in! [Read more...](#)
NCRA: <http://ncrarecycles.org/topics/elections/>

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

In early January NCRA members will elect the 2016 board. But only people whose membership is fully paid-up will be eligible to vote. If your membership expires soon, be sure to renew it soon!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

In the January NCRA News the annual listing of members with contact info will be distributed in pdf form. If you'd prefer to not be listed or your contact information has changed, please send us a [note](#)! If your membership has expired, you will be sent another request to renew. Warning! The system is not friendly to recently-expired memberships so if you're late in renewing, you won't be on the list. Please pay online using PayPal and a major debit or credit card. There is a \$2.00 fee for this service - which saves an envelope, a stamp and a lot of staff time; the total will be \$52. You may also send a check for \$60 to NCRA, PO Box 5581, Berkeley, CA 94705.



AMERICA RECYCLES DAY PROPOISAL

By Portia Sinnott, NCRA Editor
A program of Keep America Beautiful (KAB) America Recycles Day (ARD) is held annually on or near November 15.

This year it falls on Sunday so many events are planned for November 12, 13 or 14. As of today there are 1,578 events listed on the [ARD map](#) – up from 1,252 last month! Twenty eight events are now registered for California - up from two! Ten are being held in Northern California. The efforts listed are quite varied and provides access to many advocates not in the NCRA or CRRA loops. Many are e-waste related. Most are public. A few are private; for examples companies like [AEG Oakland](#), doing a clothing collection drive for Oracle Arena employees.

In 2016, I propose NCRA help double Northern California listings by promoting participation during Zero Waste Week and at RU. Maybe even invite the local KAB folks to take part! In some cases it may be just a matter of scheduling already existing events. For example, the Oakland Recreate Art Contest showcased below could be tweaked to be an ARD event.

I disagree with those who do not support ARD because they dislike KAB politics and sponsors. (Some call them one of the [first greenwashing corporate fronts](#).) I believe in supporting efforts that educate the public on urgent

issues of the day. Yes, there may be a fine green line that we need to continuously monitor, yet collaboration with the people you don't always agree with is one way to heal the rift. Some people call it missionary work! [Read more...](#)
[America Recycles Day](http://americarecyclesday.org/events/?action=tribe_geosearch&tribe_paged=1&tribe_event_display=map&tribe_state=CA): http://americarecyclesday.org/events/?action=tribe_geosearch&tribe_paged=1&tribe_event_display=map&tribe_state=CA

EVENT EXAMPLES

[Davis Street Transfer Station](#), Oakland. Fun and games for the whole family: Kids can plant seeds, make paper, explore a recycling truck and do a creative reuse craft project. Adults tour the facility, ask questions and play the Ready Set Recycle contest.

[Big Valley Rancheria Neighborhood Clean-Up](#), Lakeport. EPA is embarking on a series of neighborhood clean ups on the Rancheria. We will be placing a 15 yard dumpster for households to pick up any illegal dumping and/or dispose of extra debris in their yards. We will be handing out outreach materials on ways to reduce trash waste and to increase recycling.

[National Park Service and Renew Computers](#), Point Reyes Station. An electronic waste (e-waste) recycling collection at the Bear Valley Visitor Center on Saturday November 15. The event is free and open to the public.

[Fair Street Recycling](#), Chico is paying .20 more per pound for CRV aluminum with a coupon in the local newspaper. Fair Street is a non-profit affiliate of the Work Training Center, Inc. which provides work for adults with developmental disabilities. They employ 38 individuals, 24 of whom are workforce-supported clients, process 290 tons of aluminum, 820 tons of glass, 190 tons of plastic and 360 tons of paper annually. **It is their graphic at the top of the article.**

WHOIS KAB: Keep America Beautiful is a U.S. based nonprofit organization founded in 1953. It is the largest community improvement organization in the United States, with approximately 589 affiliate organizations and more than 1,000 community organizations that participate in their programs.

KAB focuses on three key issues: litter prevention, waste reduction/recycling and community greening & beautification. This is accomplished through a combination of community organizing, public education and the fostering of public/private partnerships. [Read more... Wikipedia:](#)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keep_America_Beautiful

OAKLAND'S RE-CREATE ART CONTEST NOW UNDERWAY

Students in Oakland schools are invited to participate in the 2015 Re-Create Art Contest. Participants will use discarded or reused materials in a creative application of the 4Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot (compost). All Oakland students in grades TK-12 are eligible to participate in the contest. Art supply sets, and theater and museum passes will be awarded to contest winners. Deadline for submissions is Saturday November 21, 2015. For complete contest information, see the [Re-Create brochure](#) or visit www.proartsgallery.org. A public reception and awards ceremony will be held on Friday December 4, 2015, from 5:30-7pm at Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA. Oakland's Re-Create 2015 Art Contest and Traveling Exhibition is sponsored by the City of Oakland, Public Works Department and produced by Pro Arts Gallery.

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Zero Waste Advocacy Committee (ZWAC) meets the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is October 14, 6pm at John Moore's office, 1970 Broadway, Oakland, 9th floor. For more info, read the minutes from the last meeting [here](#), and visit the [Advocacy Page](#) and [Activities Blog](#).

The Communications Committee needs volunteer researchers, reporters and photographers, as well as helpers for small tasks such as populating the events calendar and Jobs In Recycling showcase. It is a wonderful way to get a little bit more involved. For more info, read the [Communication Page](#).



ZERO WASTE COMMUNITY SHOWCASE AND TOOLS WORKSHOPS, 2015

You are invited to take part in the next Zero Waste Brain Trust on Tuesday, December 8, 9:30am - 3:30pm, at StopWaste, in downtown Oakland. The event will showcase what local communities are doing get to high diversion and Zero Waste, as well as new and updated assessment tools that can really help! Registration is \$40 per person including lunch and refreshments. \$60 after 12/1! CRRA Members, Alameda County residents and StopWaste Member Agency staff receive a \$10 discount if payment is received by 12/1. After 12/1: \$60, no discounts! Partial scholarships available for non-profits; please send a note to admin@zerowasteusa.org with "ZWCT Scholarship Request" in subject line. Register today at www.zerowasteusa.org.

Live in Southern California? The Burbank version of this workshop is 12/1. Late reg starts 11/23! See [website](#) for details!

This series is facilitated by Portia Sinnott, Ruth Abbe, Richard Anthony, Gary Liss and Laura McKaughan

assisted by other members of the Global Recycling Council of the California Resource Recovery Association. Oakland panelists include Karen Irwin, USEPA Region 9, Steven Chiv, SFE, Naomi Lue, CVSAN, Tedd Ward, Del Norte SWMA and Gary Wolf, StopWaste. Visit www.zerowasteusa.org for registration links, program, speakers, sponsors and more.

Funded in part by an Altamont Education Advisory Board grant and the Global Recycling Council of the California Resource Recovery Association. Sponsored by Zero Waste USA, Global Recycling Council of the California Resource Recovery Association, Zero Waste Sonoma County, City of Burbank and StopWaste. Promotional partners include Northern California Recycling Association, U.S. Zero Waste Business Council, Zero Waste San Diego and Zero Waste Humboldt. Additional sponsors and partners welcome!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: LAURA MCKAUGHAN

Happy Fall everyone! NCRA continues to have a busy "off" season with lots of events, trainings and tours designed to create development and networking opportunities with a twist of fun. We were thrilled with the overwhelming response to NCRA's first ever Mixer on Oct 21, hosted with the assistance of the City of San Jose. Over 22 members and non-members alike joined together for drinks and networking at San Jose's downtown San Pedro Market Square Bar from 5-7pm. Based on the success of this first event, we anticipate doing many more.

Have an idea where we should host the next Mixer in the Spring? Let us **KNOW!** Special thanks goes out to Jo Zientek from the City of San Jose and NCRA Board member David Krueger for doing the leg work in getting the event organized. And please see the rest of the newsletter for information about the upcoming AERC tour in November, the holiday party in December, the Annual



Members meeting in January and then Zero Waste Week and Recycling Update in March. Whew!

NCRA will host its seventh and final Oakland Recycles outreach event for the year on November 21 in partnership with the Alameda Sustainable Recycling campaign, ILWU Local 6, and United Roots youth organization. The goal of these door-to-door outreach events has been to get the word out about the new compost services available to Oakland multi-family dwellings. We are always in need of more volunteers, so if you can join us, pls [EMAIL ME](#) directly. The event is from 9am – 2pm and a light breakfast and lunch are included. You can find more details on our web site [HERE](#).

This weekend (Nov 13-15), please stop by NCRA's booth at the 14th annual Green Festival SF at the Cow Palace. The Green Festival is a green living expo featuring sustainable products and services, a book store, healthy and organic food and more. There is also keynote speakers and live music. We can be found in the Sustainable Home and section (booth #1819) so come enjoy the festive. America Recycles Day is Nov 15, so maybe visiting the Green Festival is what you can do to celebrate it! See our [WEB SITE](#) for a code for discounted tickets

Last but not least, it's November which means NCRA board elections are right around the corner. We are currently making a CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for anyone who may be interesting in joining the NCRA board. Members seeking to join the board of directors (or current board members seeking re-election) need to submit a 200 word ballot statement outlining why you are interested in running for the board and how you feel you are qualified for the position. Afterward ballot statements will be posted to the web site and members will have the chance to vote for NCRA's 2015 Board of Directors. Voting will commence in early December. Please see the newsletter for more details. Please [EMAIL US](#) with questions.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

BATTLE OF THE BAGS: PLASTIC BAG MAKERS INTRODUCE 'POISON PILL'

By Jessica Calefati, Inside Bay Area, 11/5/15

Next year's election is still more than a year away, but the battle over California's landmark ban of single-use plastic bags is already shaping up to be the most costly, high-profile fight over litter and recycling the state has seen in three decades.

Out-of-state bag makers leading the campaign to repeal a 2014 law banning their product spent \$3 million on signature gathering alone -- and in a surprise move recently filed another initiative on the same topic, a highly unusual strategy that appears to be the political equivalent of a trick play in football.

... "Bag makers are trying to goad retailers who support the bag ban into spending money against this initiative," said Mark Murray, executive director of Californians Against

Waste. "I was shocked by the audacity of this cynical, political move."

The California Grocers Association insists that it backed SB270 to establish a uniform statewide bag policy, regardless of potential cost or revenue, said Dave Heylen, a spokesman for the group. And while the group hasn't yet taken a position on the initiative, the grocers remain supportive of the bag ban... [Read more... Inside Bay Area: www.insidebayarea.com/news/ci_29062413/battle-of-the-bags:-plastic-bag-makers-introduce-poison-pill](#)

CALIFORNIA PUSHES TO MAKE LANDFILLS FOOD-FREE

By Jeremy B. White, Sacramento Bee, 10/11/15

... In a little-heralded move with potentially sweeping implications, the California Air Resources Board last month announced a push to halt disposal of nearly all organic waste by 2025. The shift would likely require building new processing facilities, prod cities and counties to develop ways to collect it, and add an extra trash-sorting step before Californians drag bins to the curb. [Read more... Sacramento Bee: http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article38764776.html](#)

EPA RELEASES SMM STRATEGIC PLAN

Read more... National Recycling Coalition: [http://nrcrcycles.org/mobius/nrcwp-content/uploads/2015/02/SMM-Strategic-Plan_October-2015.pdf](#)

DISTRIBUTION CENTER FOR LAKE COUNTY FIRE DONATIONS ESTABLISHED

By Eli Nymeyer, Record-Bee, 9/29/2015

The effort to coordinate all of the donated resources flooding into Lake County for fire relief has finally come to a head, thanks to a spirit of community fostered by one property owner and a group of hard-working, dedicated volunteers. Thanks to owner Ed Olson, the warehouse known as the Work Right Building, the former site of a shower door manufacturing company, has been transformed into a base of operations for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and a massive sorting and distribution center for quantifying and dispersing donations to relief centers throughout the county. The upstairs office area, measuring 7,600 square feet, is half-full of FEMA agents, and the 60,000-square-foot warehouse floor is being filled — almost entirely — by donations, furniture, volunteers and the equipment they use for sorting. [Read more... Record-Bee: http://www.record-bee.com/general-news/20150929/distribution-center-for-donations-established-and-for-contact-information-Valley Fire Support Loop: http://supportloop.org/forums/topic/storage-in-lakeport-for-donations/](#)

SUPPORT COMPOST PEDALLERS IN DIEGO CAMPAIGN

As you may remember, Dustin Fedko of [Compost Pedallers](#) of Austin TX spoke at RU and the Zero Waste Youth Convergence in 2013. A bike-powered compost company, Compost Pedallers now has an Indiegogo campaign

to raise \$40,000. They are proposing a Grassroots campaign to move 1M pounds of waste by bike. [Check it out...](#) Indiegogo: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/compost-pedallers-turn-your-waste-into-food#/>

2015'S GREENEST CITIES IN AMERICA

By Richie Bernardo, Wallet Hub

Note from David Tam: Wow! San Francisco ranked 3rd greenest of 100 biggest US cities after New York and Portland. Other runner ups included Oakland 9th, Fremont 10th, San Diego 12th, Sacramento 18th, Los Angeles 21st, San Jose 22nd, and Stockton 24th...

... To find the cities that most encourage an environmentally friendly lifestyle, WalletHub analysts compared 100 U.S. cities across 13 key metrics. Our data set ranges from greenhouse-gas emissions per capita to the number of smart-energy policies and initiatives. You can find the results, additional expert commentary and a detailed methodology below. [Read more...](#) WalletHub: <https://wallethub.com/edu/most-least-green-cities/16246/#methodology>

WHOIS Wallet Hub – Evolution Finance launched Wallet Hub in February 2012 as a one-stop destination for all the tools and information consumers and small business owners need to make better financial decisions and save money. Wallet Hub is leading the industry thanks to a unique combination of social features, expert insights, and a vast amount of constantly-updating information. [Read more...](#) WalletHub: <https://wallethub.com/about/>

NEED A GRASS CLIPPINGS COMPACTOR?

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) says that a half acre lawn in New England produces over 3 tons or nearly 260 bags of grass clipping each year!

NCRA was recently contacted by Todd Graus, inventor of BioPac'r. Mr. Graus seeks to let waste management professionals know about his landscape waste compactor bag system which converts lawn clippings into a fermented livestock feed. Currently the grass-based silage is being fed to containment cattle in Wyoming under the supervision of the University of Wyoming Ag Extension Service. Watch his YouTube video [here: https://www.biopacr.com/](https://www.biopacr.com/)

From the BioPac'r website: The BioPac'r™ is 100% self-contained and portable and slides into the back of a pickup or trailer. It can compress multiple pickup/trailer loads of lawn clippings into a convenient to handle 1-ton package (3' x 4' x 4.5'). It also holds forty (40) 39 gallon Hefty bags of tree leaves. This grass handling device allows landscapers to use shorter trailers for their equipment allowing for more maneuverability on narrow streets or in traffic. Crew members can now empty their mowing bags into the BioPac'r™ and compact the clippings just before leaving a client's lawn, eliminating the air which in turn, prevents heat buildup associated with loose lawn clippings. At the end of the day the BioPac'r™ packages the compressed Biomass into our proprietary bag where the biomass pickles, ferments (ensiles) and detoxifies these clippings with any

residual lawn pesticides on them in exactly the same process the farmers detoxify their silage crops of residual pesticides. [Read more...](#) BioPac'r: <https://www.biopacr.com/>

DIRTY SECRETS - IN CLEANING PRODUCTS, HAIR PRODUCTS, FEMININE CARE PRODUCTS...

Petition To Tell Procter And Gamble To Make Safer Products!

Two years ago, Women's Voices For The Earth commissioned laboratory testing of Always brand pads and found that the products emit potential carcinogens, reproductive and developmental toxins...Today we are asking P&G to set new standards for the safety of these products. More specifically, we want the company to disclose the full list of ingredients and materials used to make Tampax tampons and Always pads. P&G promises leadership, ownership, integrity and trust, yet full ingredient lists for Tampax and Always products are not available. As a result, women all over the world are unknowingly exposing their bodies to unidentified compounds that may be harmful to our health. [Read more...](#) WVE: www.womensvoices.org and [Sign the petition...](#) [Change.org: www.change.org/p/tell-procter-and-gamble-to-make-safer-tampons-and-pads-for-all-women-and-detoxthebox](http://www.change.org/p/tell-procter-and-gamble-to-make-safer-tampons-and-pads-for-all-women-and-detoxthebox)

WHO IS: Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) defines the environment as the places people live, work and play. It is estimated that between 80,000 and 85,000 chemicals are in use in the environment in the United States, yet only about 200 of these chemicals have been tested for safety. Of those chemicals that have been tested, most have been evaluated only for their acute impacts to adult males in industrial settings. The chemical exposure routes and health impacts on women – especially girls, women of color and women of reproductive age – are different and have historically been largely overlooked. [Read more...](#) WVE: <http://www.womensvoices.org/>

HOW MUCH OF THE WORLD WOULD NEED TO BE COVERED IN SOLAR PANELS TO POWER EARTH?

By Rebecca Harrington, Tech Insider, 9/25/15

... If solar is 20% efficient (as it has been in lab tests) at turning solar energy into power, we'd only need to cover a land area about the size of Spain to power the entire Earth renewably in 2030. [Read more...](#) Tech Insider: www.techinsider.io/map-shows-solar-panels-to-power-the-earth-2015-9

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

Managed by NCRA Legislation Task Holder, David Tam, daviditam3@gmail.com

CalRecycle Status of Priority Bills, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/laws/Legislation/StateLeg.htm> then click Status of Priority Bills

Californians Against Waste (CAW), www.cawrecycles.org/legislation/current

CALIFORNIA ADOPTS FOUR LAWS TO DEVELOP RECYCLING, COMPOSTING, WASTE REDUCTION

By Allan Gerlat, Waste 360, 10/13/15

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed into law bills that called for addressing organic waste by developing compost and anaerobic digestion; providing a tax exemption on recycling equipment; and a ban on products containing plastic microbeads that can be rinsed down the drain, according to news releases from the Sacramento-based environmental group, Californians Against Waste. [Read more...](#) Waste360: <http://m.waste360.com/composting/california-adopts-four-laws-develop-recycling-composting-waste-reduction>

CONTINUING EDUCATION

KEURIG'S K-CUPS INCH CLOSER TO BEING 100% RECYCLABLE

By Hannah Furlong, Sustainable Brands, 9/22/15
Keurig Green Mountain Inc. is making progress towards its goal of making all K-Cups recyclable by 2020. Following successful recycling research trials, the company has unveiled plans to transition the entire product line to polypropylene, according to Plastics News.

... The coffee giant then worked with KW Plastics Recycling Division of Troy, Atlanta to research how K-Cups travel through traditional recycling facilities. Most of the cups were successfully sorted into the container line, although some ended up in the glass and paper streams. "In our trials, which were large-scale trials, 70 percent of these small items are making it to the container line and are available for recovery. So there's value being left on the table for the MRF. There's value being left on the table for the reclaimers. There's an economic incentive to make some changes," Oxender said.

She acknowledged that the transition would be slow, but she still expects the company to meet its target for 2020. She said it was not disclosing timelines but would be "making significant progress each year" and are "moving as fast as [they] possibly can." "Because of the volume of cups – we're taking about multiple manufacturing facilities across North America — it is quite an undertaking to make a transition like this and to basically change our entire supply chain as well."

Three out of the four pod types for the Keurig 2.0 system have been made of recyclable polypropylene since the beginning of the year, according to Keurig Green

Mountain's website. The company is also pursuing take-back programs to reclaim and process used pods, and is investing in municipal recycling as a member of the Closed Loop Fund. Read more... Sustainable Brands: www.sustainablebrands.com/news_and_views/packaging/hannah_furlong/keurig%E2%80%99s_k-cups_inch_closer_being_100_recyclable

KEURIG SURPRISED BY CONSUMER BACKLASH, ADDS REUSABLE K-CUP

By Robin Shreeves, Mother Nature Network, 5/8/15

The past few months seem to have been a public relations nightmare for Keurig, makers of the popular coffee machine that require single-use K-Cups. The company admitted it screwed up with its latest incarnation of the popular machine. To please customers, Keurig plans to give them at least one thing they want: a reusable K-Cup for its 2.0 machine. Read more... Mother Nature Network: www.mnn.com/food/beverages/blogs/keurig-gives-in-adds-reusable-k-cup-for-20-machine#ixzz3ZZuwHJv2

A BREWING PROBLEM

By James Hamblin, The Atlantic, 3/2/15... "I told them how to improve it, but they don't want to listen," John Sylvan (inventor of the K-Cup) told me. ... "Take coffee and put it in a centrifuge, and it comes apart. Then you take the parts and combine them back when you make the coffee. So you could use something like a ketchup foil pack, and the separate parts won't become oxidized when they're stored and transported. Then you can combine them again at the last minute..." Read more... The Atlantic: <http://www.the-atlantic.com/technology/archive/2015/03/the-abominable-k-cup-coffee-pod-environment-problem/386501/>

YOUR COFFEE PODS' DIRTY SECRET

By Maddie Oatman, Mother Jones, 3/19/14

... Some competitors already have recyclable or biodegradable versions of this single-serve pod; Nespresso's lid and pod is made entirely from aluminum. A Canadian brand, Canterbury Coffee, makes a version that it says is 92 percent biodegradable (everything save for the nylon filter can break down). Finding a substitute is an interesting challenge, says Keurig spokeswoman Sandy Yusen, because coffee is perishable, and so the material used must prevent light, oxygen, and moisture from degrading the coffee.

Another reason to look beyond plastic is a concern with what could leach out of the material when heated. Yusen confirmed that the #7 plastic used in K-Cups is BPA-free, safe, and "meets or exceeds applicable FDA standards." But new evidence suggests that even non-BPA plastics can test positive for estrogenic activity. (Our "Frightening Field Guide to Common Plastics" contains more information about this.) Read more... Mother Jones, <http://www.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2014/03/coffee-k-cups-green-mountain-polystyrene-plastic>

DESIGNING FOR ZERO WASTE WEBINAR

USZWBC Webinar, Thursday, November 19, 2015, 11am-12pm

Zero Waste is much more than materials management; it encompasses upstream thinking to prevent waste before it occurs. On this webinar, speakers will cover key principles and industry trends in designing products and packaging for Zero Waste. The webinar will also include real-life examples on how businesses have redesigned products and/or packaging for Zero Waste. Speakers include [Lara Jackle Dickinson](#), Executive Director & Co-founded of OSC2 (One Step Closer to an Organic and Sustainable Community) and [Bridgett Luther](#), formerly of Cradle to Cradle and founder of 21st Century California. [Register...](#) USZWBC: <http://uszwbc.org/events/designing4zerowaste>.

MEMBERS' CORNER

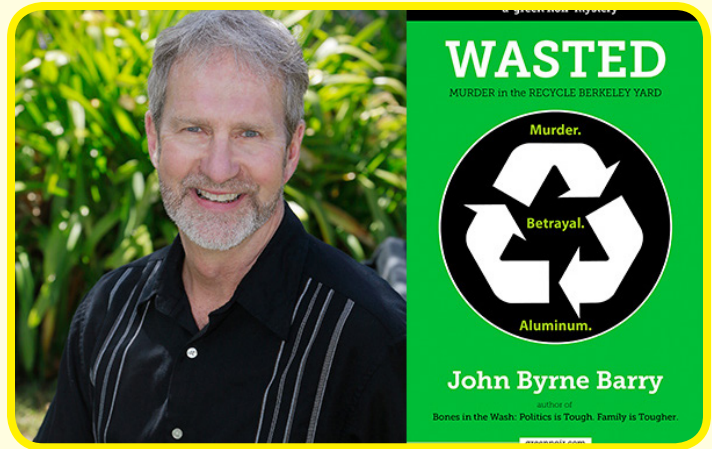
WHAT'S BOONE BEEN DOING? PRACTICING HABU!

By Arthur R. Boone, Center For Recycling Research and Total Recycling Associates

As NCRA's longest-serving board member, it is my internally-generated task to always adhere to the highest standards of waste avoidance and zero discards to landfills.

This commitment requires near-tortuous attention to details and continuous practice of "highest and best use" [HABU], an almost ritualistic attention to personal discarding practices. As with the Jewish custom of "eating Kosher" that requires knowing the history of anything that you put in your mouth, living a HABU life requires knowing where this small piece of creation will end up when you are finished using it. I have on my desk now five small items, 1) a rubber band, 2) a pebble, 3) a paper clip, 4) a blue Lego, and 5) a green piece of a plastic bottle cap. It would be feasible to put items 1 and 2 in the green bin, and items 3, 4, and 5 in the mixed recyclables bin as metals and rigid plastics. But practicing HABU means that item 1 goes in my rubber band container for reuse, the pebble goes in the tubes we use to create water courses in newly-planted trees, the paper clip goes in its desk-top container, the Lego gets aggregated with other Legos found on the street for delivery to the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, and the plastic chip goes in my special bag of rigids going to a drop off center so as not to get lost in the 9% residue that the curbside program gives itself while allowing me to put plastics in my curbside bin and fails to mention its residue which goes on to the landfill.

HABU's details are time-consuming, maybe not the best use of my time but seem to be required by the dictates of Zero Waste. Any comments? ARB



MURDER...BETRAYAL...ALUMINUM

A review of *Wasted*, a new novel about recycling set in Berkeley

By Daniel Knapp, Urban Ore

In John Byrne Barry's second "Green Noir" mystery *Wasted* (the first was *Bones in the Wash*), a recycler in a company called Recycle Berkeley (Re-Be) is found mashed inside an export bale of aluminum cans at Berkeley's transfer station. The recycler, one of Re-Be's most passionate defenders, is dead. He didn't get there by himself. Someone had to operate the baler, put him in it. Was it about Re-Be or was it personal? Who killed him? Who operated the baler?

At the beginning of the story, out and about on Berkeley's gritty flatland streets at 5am, Brian Hunter temporarily escapes his boring day job as a contract bookkeeper to become a freelance reporter. His friend Doug, who drives a collection truck for Re-Be, has told him a small army of people are out every night stealing aluminum cans from Re-Be's curbside routes. The financial impact is large. To follow the story, Brian decides to become a poacher himself. Doug gives him a route map so he can go in ahead of the collection trucks.

The first poacher he meets is unfriendly one moment, violent the next. Thinking Brian is a liar threatening his stash of cans, the poacher whacks the would-be reporter with a board. Brian howls in pain but doesn't fight back. The two men take a break from these exertions for some talk over a couple of cans of warm beer the poacher has scored. Brian learns that poachers must have "sponsors." This poacher offers to sponsor Brian. Brian accepts.

From then on, we're in a strangely fictionalized but recognizable hall of mirrors that is the lot of people who actually do the work of collecting and processing all those cans and bottles. The author knows his stuff; he used to be on the board of directors of the nonprofit that does Berkeley's curbside collection, although another nonprofit company processes the materials. In *Wasted*, they are merged.

Structural conflicts abound both in the novel and in real life. Poachers take the valuable aluminum and leave the rest for Re-Be. Income-deprived, Re-Be is sliding toward

bankruptcy. Brian learns that Re-Be has fallen behind three months in rent to the City. He finds the politicians embarrassed and scared because Re-Be holds an exclusive City contract for curbside collection services. But City staff haven't paid Re-Be's service fees for months. A City Council member wants to hand Re-Be's contract to another company. Re-Be's managers and board battle desperately to keep the nonprofit afloat. Supporters, some armed with dubious tactics, flock to Re-Be's defense in a press event and later in a big demonstration.

Consolidated Scavenger, a multinational waste company with a transfer station in a city to the south of Berkeley, is a big presence, willing and able to take over Re-Be's contract. Consolidated, or "Con," has friends in Berkeley's high places but not so many on the street.

Just before Brian discovers the body of his friend Doug, he tells his editor how his story about poaching has morphed into something much bigger: "One power struggle mirrors another. At stake, a million-dollar...contract, the city council majority, and...the soul of Berkeley. Add sex and stir." She says, "That's not the story you turned in [yesterday]." Brian replies, "That's right. But it's the one you'll get in two hours." Doug creates an upset by crashing and ruining a big celebration intended to help Re-Be. What he does leaves everyone embarrassed, confused and hating him. The unrest makes headlines around the world. As Brian tells it, "The media loves to trivialize Berkeley....many of the embryonic movements and trends nurtured here – from free speech to recycling to divestment from South Africa – have become mainstream, but the 'only in Berkeley' gibe never seems to get out of style."

Besides losing the aluminum to poachers, Re-Be is losing some of its best workers to Con. Con pays better, but that's not all. Some staff are fed up with the "kitchen-table collective" culture of Re-Be, so there are divided loyalties even before Doug's death. The murder cleaves these loyalties into ever smaller bits.

Brian keeps following leads and trying to protect his sources while cooperating with the police, and we are carried along at a gallop. He loses lots of sleep staying just ahead of other writers who flock to the story. He falls in love with one of the female suspects and reflects on the proper relations between observer and observed. Cool detachment is impossible. He's inside the story and outside it at the same time.

When the City tries to evict Re-Be, and when Re-Be refuses to go, the City breaks into its site at night and disables its baler. That break-in is one of the events that actually happened in Berkeley's history. Moreover, a woman whose name begins with "K" (Kathy Evans in reality; in the novel she's Kisa) finds a replacement part during the night, and the baler is up and running defiantly the very next day.

For fun, I made a list of all the direct parallels to the real

story of Berkeley's recycling. So far there are more than 20.

Which leads to a caution: beyond property damage, Berkeley's recycling has never been marked by murderous violence. The skeleton of facts that *Wasted* assembles have been taken out of their actual context, rearranged, renamed, tilted and jumbled to serve the needs of the mystery, not history.

Recyclers have often had to defend their contracts and businesses. To resolve issues they have rarely resorted to demonstrations. Instead, they have written recycling-friendly laws and regulations that voters or City Council have strongly approved. For example, the first citizens' initiative of three that were written all or in part by Berkeley recyclers stopped procurement on a garbage-burning power plant that City Council had already approved in concept unanimously. This citizens' victory over their own electeds and the solid waste profession put Berkeley at the forefront of city or county burn-plant rejections that eventually totaled seven in our region alone, and hundreds around the USA. It also started a real-life multi-year no-holds-barred local political struggle. But no humans were mortally harmed.

For those already familiar with Berkeley's tangled relations with its recyclers, *Wasted* can be an eerie and unsettling read. Others will enjoy learning a lot about recycling's dark side while our hero reasons and guesses his way along a twisted trail to find the culprit.

CALENDAR

November 18, Board Meeting

December 6, Holiday Party

2016

January 21 – Annual Meeting

February 18 – Monthly Board Meeting

March 20 – 26, Zero Waste Week

March 22, NCRA's Recycling Update, Berkeley

April 14 - Monthly Board Meeting

May 19 - Monthly Board Meeting

Fall 1-4, [USZWBC](#) Conference, Austin, TX

Fall 16 - Monthly Board Meeting

July 21 - Monthly Board Meeting

August 7-10, CRRRA Conference, Sacramento

September 15 - Monthly Board Meeting

October 20 - Monthly Board Meeting

November 17 - Monthly Board Meeting

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