



Clean Cart Challenge

On June 5th, students from Mira Costa High School joined the City of Manhattan Beach and Waste Management of Southern California to kick off the third annual Clean Cart Challenge Program. Aimed at raising awareness about proper recycling, the program rewards residents for keeping recyclables clean and free of trash. Together, students, City officials, and Waste Management employees visually checked residential recycling carts throughout the city, looking for those containing only acceptable recyclables.

“Waste Management and the City of Manhattan Beach are devoted to increasing environmental awareness and educating residents on the significance of proper recycling habits,” said Janine Hamner of Waste Management. “Having clean, uncontaminated recyclables brings these valuable materials one step closer to a second life.”

Residents who had clean, uncontaminated recycling carts were entered into a drawing for a chance to win one month of free trash and recycling services.

A Newsletter of



City of Manhattan Beach

Solid Waste Hotline
310-802-5313

www.citymb.info

Waste Management
310-830-7100

manhattanbeach.wm.com

Summer 2014



City of Manhattan Beach Mayor Pro-tem Wayne Powell; Janine Hamner from Waste Management; Anna Luke-Jones from the City of Manhattan Beach; Mira Costa High School students Joe Rosenberg, Ben Manclark, Trace Demarest, and Ollie Saltzman; and Angelica Dulce from Waste Management



At Your Door Special CollectionSM

Waste Management's At Your Door Special CollectionSM is a service provided to Manhattan Beach residents to remove the difficult, sometimes hazardous and hard-to-recycle items that almost every household accumulates. As North America's leading environmental solutions company, Waste Management makes it easy for residents to dispose of these items by collecting the materials at their door—safely, easily, and responsibly. Our mission is to provide quality and convenient special material management services to public agencies.



Home Generated Special Materials included in the program:

-  Household Chemicals
-  Paint Products
-  Automotive Products
-  Garden Chemicals



At Your Door
Special CollectionSM
WMAYourDoor.com

Keep your cart clean

Place **LOOSE** recyclables into your blue cart:

- Plastic: Bottles, jugs, jars, containers, toys, and bags (all plastics labeled #1-7)
- Glass: Food and beverage containers
- Metal: Aluminum, tin, steel, and bi-metal cans, as well as clean aluminum foil
- Paper: Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, bubble mailers, ledger and computer paper, corrugated cardboard, phone books, cereal-type boxes, milk cartons, and juice boxes

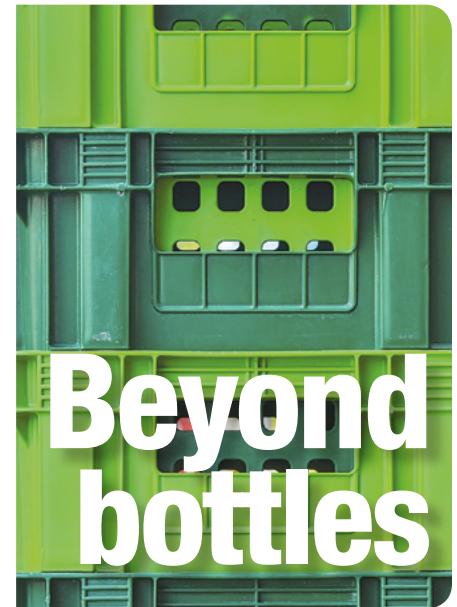


Recyclables should be clean and dry. Simply drain bottles. Empty jars and containers and scrape or wipe out food residue. Remember to flatten cardboard to save space in your cart. While other materials should be loose, you may bag plastic bags together.

Do NOT place these items into your recycling cart: hazardous waste, hoses, pool covers, polystyrene food containers, ceramics, drinking glasses, mirrors, window panes, pots, pans, non-aluminum hub caps, clothing, or rags.

Recycle electronics at the curb

At Your Door Special CollectionSM does not accept electronic waste (e-waste). E-waste, along with other bulky items like large appliances or furniture, is picked up at the curb by appointment on your regular collection day. For residents in single-family homes and multi-family dwellings, there is no charge for up to three pick-ups per year. To make your appointment, you must call Waste Management Customer Service at 310-830-7100 to request a “bulky-item pick-up” at least 48 hours before your normal collection day.



New crates are one of the many products that can be made from recycled rigid plastics.

According to a study prepared by Moore Recycling Associates, recycling for non-bottle rigid plastics rose to 1.016 billion pounds in 2012, triple the amount recycled in 2007 when tracking of rigid plastics recycling began. Rigid plastics include containers and packaging, such as cups, trays, lids, and food tubs, as well as bulky items, such as crates, buckets, baskets, toys, and lawn furniture. About three-quarters of these items are made from either polypropylene (PP, #5) or polyethylene (PE/PET, #1).

Almost all recycling programs nationwide have long accepted plastic bottles and jugs, such as soft drink bottles, water bottles, milk jugs, and detergent jugs. However, non-bottle rigid plastics are new to the mix. More than 60% of U.S. residents now have access to non-bottle rigid plastic recycling, either at curbside or drop-off centers.

In 2012, 57% of the rigid plastics were processed in the United States and Canada, while the rest were exported, mainly to China. End uses for non-bottle rigid plastics include crates, buckets, pipes, automotive products, lawn and garden products, and industrial drums.

In Manhattan Beach all plastics labeled #1-7 are accepted.

The study by Moore Recycling Associates was funded by the American Chemistry Council.



Recycling can improve employee morale, customer satisfaction, and your bottom line. Plus, recycling keeps valuable resources out of California landfills and creates jobs in our state. Most employees are already in the habit of recycling paper, cardboard, bottles, and cans at home. Provide them convenient containers for recycling those and other items at work, as well.

Remember—recycling is also the law for most businesses and multi-family properties in California. State legislation made recycling mandatory for many businesses and multi-family properties as of July 1, 2012.

All businesses that produce 4 cubic yards or more of trash per week and all multi-family properties of five units or more (such as apartment buildings) are required to recycle.

If you are ready to start recycling or want to improve your current recycling program, contact Waste Management Customer Service at 310-830-7100 for a free consultation.

City of Manhattan Beach Offers Certified Green Business Program

Waste Management, the City of Manhattan Beach, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Manhattan Beach Business Association have partnered to certify and recognize businesses that promote sustainability in their business practices.

Does your business incorporate sustainable practices into your day-to-day operations? Do you reduce waste and promote recycling? Do you reduce energy and water consumption and minimize your pollution contributions? Do you purchase products that are less harmful to human health and the environment? Do you educate customers and employees about green business practices? Would you like to learn how your company can do more?

Sign up for Green Certification today! Your Manhattan Beach business can apply for certification by visiting www.greenbusinessca.org and filling out the application. A Waste Management representative will contact you to follow up on the application and discuss the certification process. You can also contact Waste Management directly at askgreen@wm.com.

The following Manhattan Beach businesses are already certified:

- Bacchus – Wines Made Simple
- Bella Beach
- Bella Beach Kids
- Body in Balance Day Spa
- BrewCo
- California Pizza Kitchen
- Children’s Orchard
- D’Boutique
- Dealer.com
- Green Yogi
- Le Pain Quotidien
- Look! Optometry
- Manhattan Bread and Bagel
- Manhattan Towers (1230 and 1240 Rosecrans)
- Nikau Kai
- {pages} a bookstore
- The Ripe Choice Catering
- Rock ’n Fish
- Shore Fit
- South Bay Green Design
- Trilogy Spa
- Two Guns Espresso
- Yoga Loft

Preparing for summer picnics

During the summer, we enjoy many picnics and barbecues. While you're enjoying the great outdoors, don't forget the three R's. Here are simple tips for reducing, reusing, and recycling:

Reduce

- Plan ahead so that you don't have too much food. Potlucks, in particular, often lead to a lot of food waste (which translates to wasted money and time on food purchases and preparation). Rather than asking everyone to bring food, consider assigning other tasks, such as bringing cloth napkins or monitoring recycling bins.
- If you'll be somewhere without running water, take along a jug of water and soap or a bottle of hand sanitizer rather than moistened towelettes or wipes.



Reuse

- Select washable plates, cups, and silverware. For outdoor use, especially around swimming pools, rivers, and the ocean, use plastic and metal rather than glass.
- Instead of paper napkins, which can easily blow away and become litter, take along washable napkins, small hand towels, or washcloths.
- If you need a new cooler, select one that is sturdy and will last for many years.
- Consider washing and reusing "disposable" plastic cups, plates, forks, and spoons.

Recycle

- Collect bottles and cans for recycling. You can put empties back into your cooler or use a bag or box.
- Place empty recyclables into bins provided at parks, or take the recyclables home for recycling in your bin.

A Few Words on Food Safety

Carrying our food outdoors creates more risks than just eating too many ribs or too much homemade ice cream. Summer temperatures combine with long hours outdoors, allowing foodborne bacteria to thrive. Food that sits out for more than two hours (or more than one hour when the temperature is above 90° F) should be thrown away.

To improve food safety and decrease food waste:

- Keep cold foods cold by placing them into a cooler with ice or frozen gel packs. Cold food should be stored at 40° F or below to prevent bacterial growth. Meat, poultry, and seafood may be packed while still frozen so that they stay colder longer. Consider packing beverages in one cooler and perishable foods in another. That way, as the beverage cooler is opened again and again, the perishable foods won't be exposed to the warm outdoor air. Don't remove perishable cold foods from the cooler until you are ready to serve them.
- Don't cross-contaminate. Be sure to keep raw meat, poultry, and seafood securely wrapped so that their juices don't contaminate prepared or cooked foods or foods that will be eaten raw, such as fruits and vegetables. Don't spread bacteria from raw to cooked food, especially at the grill. Never reuse for serving a plate or utensils that previously held raw meat, poultry, or seafood—unless they've been washed first in hot, soapy water.
- Keep hot food at or above 140° F. You can cook food at home, wrap it well, and place it in an insulated container until serving. Or, you can cook food outdoors and serve it immediately.



In praise of junkyards

Adam Minter is a journalist from a family of “scrappers,” so it isn’t surprising that his debut book, *Junkyard Planet: Travels in the Billion-Dollar Trash Trade* (Bloomsbury Press, 2013), explores the vast expanse of the global recycling economy. The result is an unexpectedly interesting tale that aims “to explain why the hidden world of globalized recycling and reclamation is the most logical (and greenest) endpoint in a long chain that begins with the harvest in your home recycling bin, or down at the local junkyard.”

Minter knows that the numbers can be astonishing—American consumers produce 251 million tons of trash annually, of which almost 87 million tons are recycled and composted. But he gives life to the recycling and scrap industry by introducing the people who handle scrap—sorting, buying, selling, or remanufacturing—in the U.S. and China. As he introduces these people and businesses, Minter takes the reader on a journey from scrap men of the early 20th century to the boom of the 1960s American recycling industry and around the world, showing us the growth of the global recycling industry. Along the way, he explains what happens to the plastics, papers, and metals thrown into recycling bins and carts.

Minter is uniquely qualified to offer this perspective. Minter’s family owns a scrap yard in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Founded by his late great-grandfather during the Great Depression, the junkyard was a business born of poverty-driven ingenuity and a desire to find a way to earn a living for himself and his family. This entrepreneurship was passed down through the generations. Minter grew up in the junkyard, run by his father and grandmother, and the

According to Adam Minter, “the world’s most recycled product (by weight) isn’t a newspaper, a notebook computer, or a plastic water bottle—it’s an American automobile, most of which is metal. In 2012, the United States recycled nearly 11.9 million cars..., generating millions of tons of metal that was quickly and efficiently recycled into a range of new products (mostly parts for new automobiles) around the world.”

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yard holds many special memories from his childhood. He notes that, like many of China's growing recycling companies, "the world's largest recycling industry—the U.S. one—was also born from self-interested motives." Today, Minter is a journalist for *Bloomberg World View*, based in Shanghai, China.

The book begins with a trip to Texas to visit one of the largest sorting facilities for household recyclables in the United States. Minter describes the recycling facility as a "Walmart-sized space." He likens it to "Willy Wonka's chocolate factory: conveyors of trash rush upward and release their cargo into spinning stars that toss it about in a manner that I can only describe as joyful, like popcorn jumping in a frying pan." This plant accepts mixed recyclables, also called "single-stream recycling," meaning the consumers don't separate their recyclables. Instead, machines and workers along the system of conveyor belts separate materials by type, which are then baled or packaged for shipment to processors and manufacturers.

Reuse and recycling require, as Minter notes, ingenuity and entrepreneurship. Most scrap and recycling businesses begin in "backpacks, pickup trucks, and perhaps a discrete backyard or two." For instance, in Shanghai, where peddlers scrounge for cans and other recyclable items, Minter sees a migrant woman with a fanny pack filled with scrap money "presiding over a system that harvests recyclables from the trash." Worldwide, the industry has grown, not for altruistic or environmental reasons, but because "somebody was short a resource, and somebody else with some ingenuity and entrepreneurship had an idea for how to provide it."

Minter explores the stories of some of these entrepreneurs who have made recycling more efficient and feasible. Leonard Fritz began "grubbing," or scrapping for metals, in 1931 in order to make money for school clothes. Fritz now owns one of the largest scrap companies in the United States, the Huron Valley Steel Corporation, which, in 2007, received over 1 billion pounds of scrap. Similarly, Alpert & Alpert in Los Angeles started in the 1950s when the company bought scrap from peddlers and sold to only three steel mills. They now ship billions of dollars' worth of scrap to Asia. Minter also visits

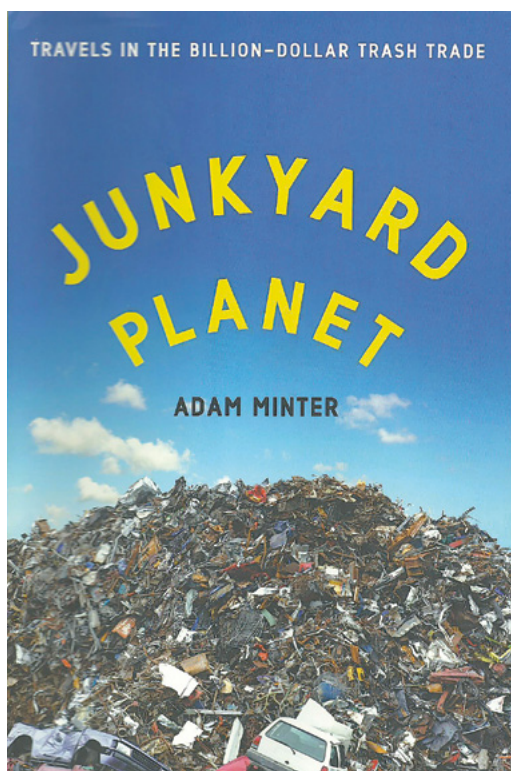
OmniSource in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which has some of the most expensive and high-tech metal separating equipment in the world, and Scott Newell in El Paso, Texas. Newell created the auto shredder and is now the supplier of more than 30% of the world's metal shredders.

While explaining the vast expanse of the recycling world, Minter also relates how cyclical the industry is, mirroring the larger economy. "The global recycling business, no matter how sustainable or green, is 100 percent dependent upon consumers consuming goods made from other goods," writes Minter.

According to Minter, "U.S. manufacturers (second only to China in total output) still use roughly two-thirds of the recycled materials that are generated within the U.S. borders." The next largest user of American recyclables is China, where companies use these raw materials to manufacture exports, as well as to serve their own growing economy, much as the U.S. recycling industry boomed in the 1960s as the middle-class grew in this country.

Minter travels through China, following various recyclables as they are sorted, processed, and reused or remanufactured. In Foshan, China, migrant workers separate metals used to build the numerous buildings in China's cities. This process is mainly done by hand labor, which provides a better living for the migrant workers than subsistence farming in their villages. This metal separation is also, environmentally, a better alternative

“The world is a better, cleaner, and more interesting place for its junkyards. I wouldn't want to live on a planet without them.”



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than mining for new metals. In Taizhou, China, old automobiles are taken apart, parts are sorted by hand, and then reused to repair cars in China. If a part cannot be reused, it is recycled and sent to Japan. Wen'an County in northern China is the heart of the global scrap-plastics trade, and, unfortunately, one of the most polluted areas in the country. However, the plastics sorted there are used, as Minter notes, to "make everything from cell phones to coffee cups." In Guiyu, China, old iPhones and other electronics are refurbished and used by people who cannot afford to buy a new phone. However, some products prove difficult to recycle. For instance, many touchscreens are made in such a way that it is not profitable to extract the valuable rare earth minerals found in them.



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Workers pull recyclables off a moving conveyor belt in a recycling sorting facility. Materials coming into this facility come in as mixed recyclables from "single-stream" carts and bins.

In describing this vast journey of recycling and the immense volume of resources that come from it, Minter shows that, while recycling is good, it is important to reduce and reuse first. He cites several studies that have found when recycling bins are present, we actually use more. "Above all, though, I encourage people to think about what it means to recycle, and make smart choices as a consumer before you buy that thing you'll eventually toss out," he writes.

As Minter notes, consumers play an important role—and not only by recycling. He suggests that consumers ask companies to design products for repair, reuse, and recycling. For instance, in electronics, companies could make it easier to replace batteries or disassemble components for recycling. He recommends that the U.S. dedicate more research and development money to recycling technologies, something that is already occurring in China and other Asian countries on a larger scale. Finally, he supports policies that encourage recyclable materials to move around the country and around the globe to businesses that can most efficiently extract and reuse the resources.

For Minter, and for all of us, junkyards are a good thing—places where what might have become waste is re-imagined. This book will leave you contemplating where that plastic bottle and cereal box you throw into the recycling bin will go, and the numerous lives they may change along the way.

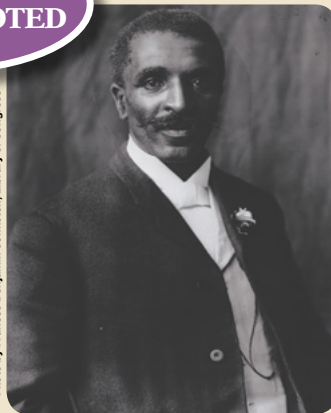
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When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world.

George Washington Carver, 1864-1943
Scientist and Inventor