

# Santa Monica Recycles: Some of the Basics

- Santa Monica has an estimated residential population of 86,000, and a daytime population of 200,000. In the year 2004, Santa Monica recycled 67% of the 365,537 tons of waste generated. From the year 2000-2004, Santa Monica residents doubled their recycling rates. The City of Santa Monica collects trash and recycling for all residential customers and approximately 30% of commercial customers. The city hauls approximately 70% of the total Santa Monica waste stream, the remainder is hauled by private entities.
- All the trash collected by Santa Monica is buried at Puente Hills Landfill, located in unincorporated Los Angeles County, adjacent to the City of Whittier. The 60 mile round-trip is made by transfer trailer truck (15 trips per day). Puente Hills Landfill is the largest in the nation - owned and operated by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles since 1970 – and it accepts waste from 60 cities and private haulers with 1 BILLION tons deposited to date.
- The Puente Hills Landfill has a permitted remaining capacity of 38 million tons, which, at an average rate of 12,000 tons per day, Puente Hills has a remaining life span of approximately 10 years. The Sanitation Districts have begun implementing plans for the eventual long haul of solid waste-by-rail to more remote disposal sites. Part of this waste-by-rail system includes a Materials Recovery and Rail Loading Facility (MRF) where waste is recycled and prepared for transfer to regional landfills in the short term, and to remote landfills by rail in the long term. Santa Monica will be sending non-recyclable waste to Puente Hills Landfill for decades to come – eventually sending the waste further and further away. Waste reduction and recycling is an important element of Santa Monica’s strategy to contain costs and build a more sustainable community.

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – In that order

- **Reduce:** Recycling is the last step in a process that starts with reducing waste. Reducing waste can mean purchasing quality items of excellent design and quality, items that can be repaired or refurbished. Often the least wasteful product costs more up-front, but ends up costing less over the life of the product.
- **Reuse:** Often confused with recycling, reuse is simply the process of holding onto items that would normally be discarded for other uses. Creativity is key, a tire swing is a good example of reuse.
- **Recycle:** The last step in the process is recycling – a process of sorting unwanted items into like materials for commodity markets throughout the world, hopefully finding the highest good for the material.

## What Can We Recycle in Santa Monica? Call 310.458.2223 for information.

Curbside & Drop-off	Community Recycling Center	Recycling & Transfer Station	Household Hazardous Waste Center
<p><b>cans, glass &amp; plastic:</b> glass bottles and jars, tin and aluminum cans, and plastic bottles &amp; food containers. Plastic bags are welcome if bundled together.</p> <p><b>mixed paper:</b> cardboard, newsprint, phone books, magazines, "junk mail", office paper, brown bags, etc.</p> <p><b>green waste</b></p>	<p>aluminum &amp; steel cans</p> <p>valuable scrap metal</p> <p>glass bottles</p> <p>plastic bottles</p> <p>computer paper, white paper, mixed paper, newsprint, cardboard,</p> <p>oil &amp; oil filters.</p>	<p>electronics, appliances</p> <p>tires</p> <p>construction &amp; demolition debris (carpet, cement, asphalt, wood, plaster, metals, dry wall, etc.)</p> <p>green waste, food waste</p> <p>scrap metal</p> <p>cardboard</p>	<p>latex paint</p> <p>car batteries, household batteries</p> <p>fluorescent light tubes,</p> <p>motor oil &amp; oil filters</p> <p>anti-freeze</p> <p>mercury</p>