



Creating an edible landscape.

## An Edible Lawn

“The biggest problem in the world could have been solved when it was small.”

— Lao-tzu

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**B**urbank resident Jodie Venturelli heard Food not Lawns author Heather Flores speak and then read her book during the summer of 2008. Jodie had an epiphany. She questioned all of the time, energy, water, fertilizer, and resources needed to maintain her lawn—only to mow it and haul it away. She knew that she and her family had to take action.

Jodie, her husband Angelo, and daughter Raven enrolled in a Permaculture design course. In the class they learned how to create food abundance, how to share their surplus, and how to emulate nature in the simplest way possible.

Then the family hosted a hands-on workshop called "Swan Song for the Lawn" at their home. In 6 hours, 20 participants transformed the

front lawn into a beautiful, organic garden. The new garden had over 100 species of fruits, vegetables, and flowers, including Asian pear, pomelo, mandarin orange, bay leaf, and artichokes. Also, the yard now used less water and plant trimmings were recycled on site to build healthy soil.



By growing their own food, the family has developed a better understanding of what they are eating—local, fresh, organic produce. They also enjoy the rewarding experience of gardening and feel more connected with their neighbors because they spend more time in the front yard and share their abundance of fruits and vegetables. Jodie said, “the neighbors should never have to buy bay leaves again!”

According to Jodie, changing the front lawn has improved her life. She said, “It has given me hope... I am able to make a change in my neighborhood and the community in which I live. Isn't that what it's all about? Starting with yourself and making a difference—simply starting with one home and front yard.”



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY BURBANK! 100 CENTENNIAL TREES

**E**ach year, Leadership Burbank cultivates a class of future leaders who complete an inspirational project that will benefit the community.

The Class of 2011 recently planted 100 trees as a tribute to Burbank's Centennial and as an inheritance for the resi-

dents of the next century. The trees appear at public parks, school grounds, private residences, businesses, and non-profits. Trees provide many benefits, such as increasing shade, lowering energy bills, raising property values, easing noise pollution, and clean-

ing the air. The class also recognized trees as habitats for songbirds, the markers of seasons, restorers of aquifers, and places to gather under canopies of dappled light.

The class raised funds to purchase the trees. They...

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also worked with the “Free Parkway Tree” program provided by Parks, Recreation and Community Services and the “Made in the Shade” program offered by Burbank Water & Power (BWP).

A commemorative plaque in the Whitnall Highway Park North recognizes the sponsors of the Leadership Burbank Centennial tree planting. Sponsors’

names will also be included in this year’s centennial time capsule.

*Free trees are available to Burbank property owners through BWP’s Made in the Shade program (818) 957-8196 or through the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Parkway Tree Program (818) 238-5304.*



## MORE FUN, LESS WASTE AT THE STARLIGHT BOWL

**T**he Starlight Bowl has partnered with the Burbank Recycle Center to help visitors and vendors celebrate and practice Zero Waste, the concept of recycling and composting as much as possible so almost nothing goes into a landfill. Collection stations will be set up around the Bowl for recycling

bottles, cans and paper, and composting food scraps and other biodegradable material such as non-coated paper plates and napkins. Concert-goers are encouraged to separate compostables, recyclables, and trash at the stations during intermission to avoid the rush at the end of the night.

and cups, utensils, condiment packets, and other non-recyclable items like juice boxes. Sorry, all these things end up in the landfill!

Items that can be composted include: food scraps, uncoated paper plates and cups, wooden stir sticks, and soiled napkins. After concerts, this material is sent to a composting facility where it will be turned into rich soil for farms.

When you are at the Starlight Bowl next season, head for the bright orange Zero Waste signs and celebrate more fun with less waste.



Zero Waste isn’t automatic. It takes an honest effort to change habits and prevent waste. It starts with packing picnics in reusable containers and bringing plates, napkins, cups and utensils that can be washed at home.

Avoid plastic bags, Styrofoam (polystyrene foam) containers, plastic coated paper plates

### Burbank’s Vision: A Zero Waste City

#### Pack a Zero Waste Picnic at the Starlight Bowl

**1** Get Your Cooler, Basket, or Bag



**2** Pack Durable Settings



**3** Pack Food in Reusable Containers



**4** Separate Recyclables & Compostables



**5** Recycle After Dinner



**Compost**

- food scraps
- paper napkins
- uncoated paper products

**Recycle** (clean & dry)

- aluminum
- clean paper
- glass
- plastic

**Landfill**

- coated paper products
- condiment packs
- styrofoam



**Questions?**  
Call the Burbank Recycle Center  
**(818) 238-3900**

# BIKE ANGELS RESTORED AND DONATED 65 BIKES TO KIDS IN BURBANK IN 2010

The Bike Angels are a Burbank volunteer group of city employees and bike enthusiasts who restore used bicycles, tricycles, and wagons for donation to kids in the community. Bikes are delivered through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Donate your old bicycles, tricycles, wagons, tools, or parts.
- Volunteer for a bike repair party.

Please contact the Burbank Recycle Center at (818) 238-3900 or Elaine Pease at (818) 238-5286



# BURBANK PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED FOR SUCCESSFUL ZERO WASTE CAMPAIGN

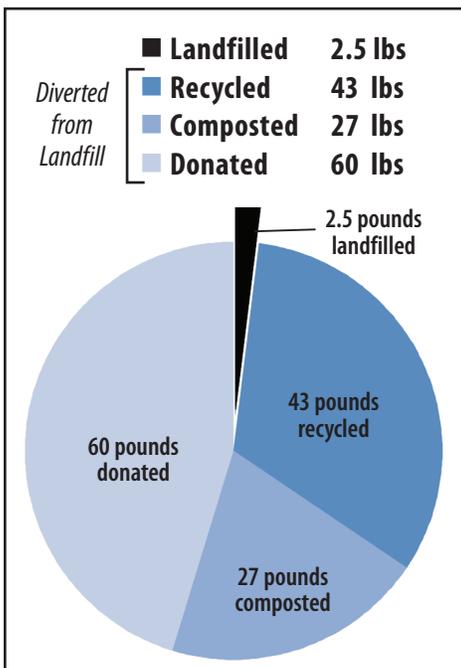
The American Public Works Association recognized the Burbank Public Works Department for their successful Zero Waste campaign at the annual Public Works Employee Recognition Picnic.

In 2010, the Picnic Planning Committee made a commitment to dramatically reduce waste by anticipating and elim-

inating needless disposables and plan around them. They made sure that decorations were recyclable or reusable; food was served without additional packaging; reusable plates and utensils were washed after the event; food scraps were composted; cans and bottles were recycled; and leftover food was donated to the Salvation Army. **The result was a 90% reduction**

in waste compared to the previous year. Less than five pounds of trash were generated from 185 meals served!

Many of the same waste reduction techniques were applied to the 2010 City Wide Employee Recognition Breakfast, The Taste of Downtown Burbank, and this year's Public Works Week Picnic, which approached zero waste.



**APWA** Southern California Chapter 2010 Project of the Year

City of Burbank

Burbank's Sustainable Public Works Week

**BEST**

George Alvarez, P.E. 2010 Chapter President

BUILDING EXCELLENCE | SHAPING TOMORROW

## Why on earth would I want to save my garbage?

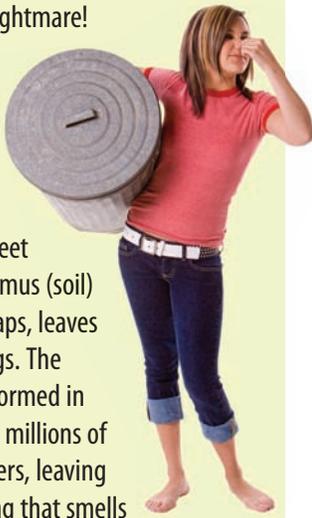
I've heard composting is all the rage, but honestly, doesn't that mean I'm keeping my stinky trash in the back yard? Sounds like a nightmare!

Well you might look at it this way instead. . . food scraps rotting in your black bin have always been a nightmare!

Composting is different. When carefully balanced, it's a natural process that produces sweet smelling dark humus (soil) from kitchen scraps, leaves and yard clippings. The mixture is transformed in a few months by millions of microscopic critters, leaving behind something that smells like a healthy forest floor.

In stark contrast, a trash cart has all the wrong conditions for a healthy ecology. It lacks the oxygen and environment that supports diverse and beneficial decomposers. The horrible smells coming from trash, especially in hot weather, cause residents to set out carts more often. When carts are set out partly empty, the emissions, congestion, and noise rise unnecessarily.

Composting reduces the number of both black and green carts set out at the curb each year. Every pound of food kept out of the landfill helps reduce methane gasses which are 23 times more damaging to the climate than carbon dioxide. Few actions have so many benefits that pay back in such valuable ways as home composting.



## Beyond the green bin: Recycling Yard Clippings at Home

If worms and compost make you squirm, consider grasscycling, which is much simpler. All you need to do is leave the clippings on the lawn when you mow. Studies have found that grasscycling yields many of the same benefits as composting and also saves work and time. Here are a few key points:

- **Grass clippings decompose**, then return organic matter, minerals and nitrogen to the soil so fertilizers and soil amendments can be reduced.
- **Nitrogen** (most often synthesized from natural gas) may be reduced by one-fourth when clippings are left on the lawn.
- **Fewer fertilizers and herbicides** mean less toxic runoff flowing down to beautiful beaches.
- **Grass clippings return some moisture to the soil** when they break down. The clippings also help build water-holding humus. Over time, the water savings add up.

Burbank landscapes generate about 9,000 tons of grass clippings per year. Instead



of nourishing local soil, these clippings travel long distances to compost facilities and then to farms. The trucking and emissions can be eliminated by simply letting the grass fall where it may.

Leaving clippings on the lawn does not cause thatch. Thatch is caused by a buildup of tough stems, shoots or stolons—not the soft blades of grass. A mulching mower chops the grass blades into small pieces to assist quick decomposition. The same effect is possible with a normal rotary mower by cutting more often when the grass is dry.

Your gardener may need some direction and practice to fine tune the techniques. Everyone can save time by handling fewer clippings, save money by returning nutrients to the soil, and save water by building topsoil.

*Read more about grasscycling and how it boosts healthy, green lawns at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/Grasscycling/>.*

## Get Back to the Basics: Compost

**R**ediscover the satisfaction of restoring health and productivity to your soil. Workshops are free, fun for the whole family, and a great way to learn about the cycle of life. By simply combining leaf and grass clippings from the yard with food scraps from the kitchen, valuable nutrients are returned to the soil to create a healthy growing environment.

### Workshop Dates

Sept 17: 10:00am–11:30am  
Jordan Middle School, 420 S. Mariposa St.  
Sept 22: 6:30pm–8pm  
Burbank Adult School, 3811 Allan Ave.

Call Burbank Recycle Center to RSVP (818) 238-3900. Upcoming event posted at [www.burbankrecycle.org](http://www.burbankrecycle.org), click on "events."



## Voluntary Residential Cool Roof Program

**L**ight colored, "cool roofs" cut energy costs and benefit the entire community by reflecting heat, decreasing overall temperatures, and reducing the urban heat island effect.

Cool roofs are highly reflective, highly emissive roofing materials that stay 50 to 60 degrees cooler than a standard roof. According to the California Energy Commission, the benefits of cool roofs include:



- reduced energy bills
- reduced size of air conditioning units
- increased comfort
- longer roof life and lower maintenance costs
- mitigate urban heat island

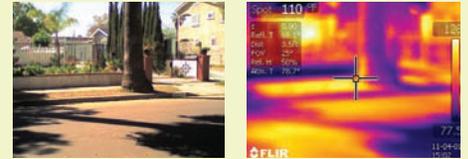
The Burbank City Council recently approved a six-month pilot program (April 1 through September 30, 2011) to provide permit fee refunds for "cooler" roof shingles on roof additions, remodels, overhauls, and new residential construction.

For more information contact Carol-Ann Coates at Building Division (818) 238-5226 or [cocoates@ci.burbank.ca.us](mailto:cocoates@ci.burbank.ca.us).

## Burbank Burdened by Heat Island Effect

**L**os Angeles was found to be at the top of the list of urban areas with higher than normal temperatures, according to a Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory study. Within the LA region, the City of Burbank stood out as one of the cities most burdened by what is called the heat island effect.

The higher temperatures are a result of dark colored surfaces absorbing the sun's heat during the day and releasing it slowly at night. On hot summer days, exposed roofs and pavement may be 50–60° hotter than ambient air, while shaded surfaces in rural surroundings maintain cooler temperatures. This means Burbank begins each day with higher temperatures than normal. In fact, Burbank summer nighttime temperatures can be up to 22 degrees higher than normal and daytime temperatures can be 5 degrees higher than normal due to the local heat island effect.



Infrared photo showing heat signature.

## Sewer Pipes Require Regular Maintenance by Property Owners

**U**nexpected sewer repairs can be expensive and stressful for property owners. Without proper maintenance, sewage lines can become blocked, making emergency repairs necessary. A sewer lateral is the part of the sewer that runs between a home and the public sewer main, and this is the property owner's responsibility, not the City's.

**A good rule of thumb is to clean sewer laterals every two years.** How often the lateral needs cleaning depends on the proximity of trees, root intrusion, and the amount of solids (fats, oils, and grease) that are put into the system.

The City recommends getting at least three quotes from reputable contractors, but cannot recommend specific contractors or confirm what type of repair work is required. For reviews of plumbing contractors written by Burbank property owners, go to: <http://burbankusa.com/modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=8972>

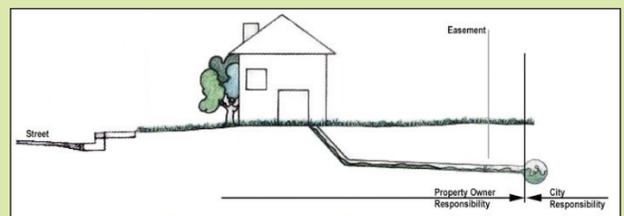
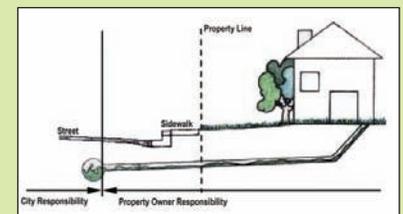
**"Burbank property owners shall maintain all sewers, clarifiers, sewage and industrial waste pretreatment facilities, sewage**

**pumping plants and their appurtenances in good operating condition and in conformity."** Burbank Municipal Code 8-1-107

For information and eligibility on City programs please call (818) 238-3915 or refer to the Sewer Lateral Use Rebate Program (SLURP) website

<http://www.ci.burbank.ca.us/index.aspx?page=465>.

Burbank plumbing codes can be found at: <http://www.ci.burbank.ca.us/Modules/ShowDocument>.



# Why Can't Plastic Bags Go in the Blue Cart?

**Well meaning residents place plastic** shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, bread bags, shrink wrap, and plastic film in the blue recycle cart thinking they are doing the right thing. After all, aren't they recycled at the grocery stores and the Recycle Center? Why would it make a difference if they were placed in the blue cart at the curb?

There is a big difference. The contents of the recycle bins at the curb are brought to the Burbank Recycle Center by trucks. Then the mixed recyclables are fed onto conveyors and both machines and people separate plastic,

glass, paper, and metals. Any plastic bag can become tangled in the moving parts of the conveyor. Workers have to climb into the machines and cut away tangled bags during shift changes. This is an expensive and dangerous activity that slows down the entire process.

The best thing to do is take your plastic bags to grocery stores or drop them in the "Plastic Bags" bin at the Recycle Center. This way they can be recycled easily without tangling in the equipment. Or better yet, remember to bring reusable bags when you shop.



## Recycle Used Motor Oil

**O**il dumped into the trash, down household drains, into storm drains, or directly onto the ground can pollute groundwater, streams, rivers, lakes, and the ocean. The waste oil from a single oil change can ruin a million gallons of fresh water—a year's supply for 50 people! One pint of oil can produce a one-acre slick on surface water. Properly collected, used oil can be recycled into new lubricants, burned as fuel, or re-refined as a high-quality motor oil for your vehicles.

The Burbank Recycle Center accepts used motor oil, oil filters, and antifreeze between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The oil collection center is closed Saturdays.

Used motor oil is the only oil that is accepted. It cannot be mixed with water, vegetable oil, hydraulic fluid, solvents, carburetor cleaners, paints, or other chemicals.

Drop off is limited to 15 gallons per visit and containers should hold no more than 5 gallons. Oil collection buckets are available weekdays at the Burbank Recycle Center free of charge, thanks to funding by a grant from CalRecycle.

Call **1-800-CLEAN-LA** for a list of other waste oil drop off centers. Waste oil can also be taken to the annual Household Hazardous Waste Roundup in Burbank or to the SAFE Collection Centers on weekends. Certified Used Oil Collection Centers pay 40¢ per gallon for recycled oil.



Funding for oil programs is provided by CalRecycle.

## Burbank Annual Household Hazardous Waste Roundup

**B**urbank residents can clear their homes of Household Hazardous Waste, including: old paint, pesticides, solvents, pool and household cleaning chemicals, vehicle fluids, aerosol cans, thermostats, electronics, fluorescent lights, batteries, and propane tanks. Up to 15 gallons or 125 lbs. of hazardous materials are accepted per person. Homebound residents can apply for pick up by calling **(888) CLEAN-LA**.

### Household Hazardous Waste Roundup

September 17, 9am – 3pm

Burbank Fire Training Center, 1845 N Ontario St.

**(888) CLEAN-LA**

SAFE Collection Centers near Burbank are available every weekend for household hazardous waste drop off.

4600 Colorado Blvd, Los Angeles 90039

Saturday & Sunday from 9am-3pm

11025 Randall St., Sun Valley 91352

Saturday & Sunday from 9am-3pm

Businesses may dispose of small amounts of hazardous waste at the SAFE collection centers by appointment only.

Call **(800) 988-6942** for information and scheduling.

## Burbank Recycle Center Recovers Over 90% of Recyclable Materials

**W**hen City trucks collect curbside recyclables the material is dropped at the Burbank Recycle Center, then sorted. The sorting yields about 90% usable glass, paper, cardboard, plastic and metals.

All businesses and apartment buildings have the choice of using the City's recycling services at no additional charge, however many use private haulers who generally have two recycling options. The first is a dedicated recycling bin (similar to Burbank's service). The second is to collect all material together in a trash bin with the understanding that the recyclables will be sorted out.

Pulling recyclables out of wet refuse is difficult and only yields about 10-25% of usable material due to the challenges of contamination. Think of what diapers, dog waste, shrimp dinners, food scraps, sour milk, and other sloppy, wet waste can do to all the clean paper, cardboard and other material that could be recycled.

It is tempting to sign up with a trash company that sorts wet trash, especially for commercial buildings with limited space. Unfortunately, a small percentage of recyclables are recovered, no behavioral change is exercised and community responsibility is unengaged.

All business and apartment managers are encouraged to use dedicated recycling services. Making room for recycle bins and encouraging others to recycle makes a big difference. To learn more, contact the Burbank Recycle Center at **(818) 238-3900**.



## Tour the Burbank Recycle Center

**J**oin friends and neighbors for a rare tour of the Burbank Recycle Center. Here is your chance to ask questions, get answers and look behind-the-scenes.

Not only will you learn how the whole process works but you'll find out what the City is doing to approach Zero Waste, increase manufacturers' Producer Responsibility, and consider policies for the future.

This tour is designed for adults. Space is limited and RSVP is required.



**October 4,  
6pm–7:30pm**

500 S Flower St.  
Burbank, 91502

Please call to RSVP  
at **(818) 238-3900**

## Planning to Move?

**G**ive yourself plenty of time to organize and drop off Household Hazardous Wastes! Early in the moving process make notes of all the old cleaners under the sinks, pharmaceuticals in the medicine cabinets, paints in the garage, herbicides in the garden shed, chemicals in the pool cabana or insecticides in the storage lockers. As you pack and clean, set up boxes to collect the toxics you'll need to drop off.

The Recycle Center answers lots of calls from residents who have only a few hours to finish the cleanup and return the keys. Callers are disappointed and frustrated to learn that the SAFE Collection Centers are only open on the weekends. If you're helping someone on their moving day, be a great friend and help organize the Hazardous Materials and make sure they go to the right place.

### SAFE Collection Center locations

4600 Colorado Blvd., Glendale 90039

Open 9am–3pm

Saturday and Sunday only

11025 Randall St., Sun Valley 91352

Open 9am–3pm

Saturday and Sunday only





City of Burbank  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
BURBANK RECYCLE CENTER

500 South Flower Street  
Burbank, CA 91502-2106  
(818) 238-3900  
(818) 841-9700 (Saturdays)  
Monday-Friday: 8am-5pm  
Saturday: 8am-4pm  
www.burbankrecycle.org

BURBANK CITY COUNCIL

Jess Talamantes, Mayor  
Dave Golonski, Vice Mayor  
Emily Gabel-Luddy, Council Member  
Dr. David Gordon, Council Member  
Gary Bric, Council Member

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ECRWSS



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post-consumer  
recycled paper

Postal Customer

## ASSEMBLY BILL 32 UPDATE

# Businesses to Increase Recycling July 1, 2012

**B**usinesses will soon be called on to increase recycling under California's 2006 Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32). By July 1, 2012, businesses and multi-unit apartment buildings that generate four cubic yards or more of trash per week will be asked to recycle in one of three ways:

1. **Subscribe to a recycling service;**
2. **Haul recyclables to a recycling facility; or**
3. **Send waste to a facility that separates recyclables from trash at a rate of 50% or greater.**

Although not commonly associated with greenhouse gases, trash represents significant emissions. Every product is a sum of its "embodied energy," which includes the materials accumulated in the extraction of raw elements, refinement, processing, transportation, manufacturing and power to operate some products. These embodied materials and energy are wasted when products are buried in the landfill. Some products decompose in the landfill and generate methane, a greenhouse gas 23 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>.

Since 1993, the City of Burbank has offered recycling to businesses and multi-family buildings at no additional charge. Call **(818) 238-3800** for more information.



## Native Plants Flourish in Burbank Gardens

**L**earn to transform water-hungry lawns into colorful, fragrant landscapes of California-native and other Mediterranean climate beauties. Learn which plants attract and create a good environment for birds, bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

Led by horticulturalist and writer Lili Singer, this workshop offers practical alternatives to high-maintenance gardening.

### Workshop Dates:

Date: September 20th  
Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm  
Location: Buena Vista Library  
300 North Buena Vista Street

Call the Burbank Recycle Center to RSVP at **(818) 238-3900**