



**PUBLIC
WORKS**

Reduce Reuse Rethink

**Burbank Recycle
Center Newsletter**

It Was a Great Ride, Kreigh



The Burbank Recycle Center recently bid farewell to our dear friend and beloved leader, Kreigh Hampel, as he rode off into retirement. An avid bicycle enthusiast and self-proclaimed “Trash Boy,” Kreigh served the City of Burbank for 17 years as Recycling Coordinator. He made a lasting impact on our community, not only through his steadfast commitment to waste reduction, but also as an ambassador for promoting the value of restoring our soils and natural systems. People all over Burbank have been touched by his selfless volunteering, mentoring and commitment to help a customer, friend or stranger. Kreigh will be deeply missed. If you see him riding his bicycle around town, wish him well in retirement.

Burbank Recycle Center Is Open

The City of Burbank has maintained consistent curbside and commercial recycling service throughout the pandemic even while our public drop-off center was closed. However, residents rejoiced this past spring when we reopened for recycling, electronics collection and bottle and can redemption services. As we learned in 2020, things can change, so the Recycle Center will continue to follow state and local safety protocols.



Check out the City of Burbank website for the latest updates on COVID-19 public safety requirements.



Where it GOES

We are recycling any items that are recyclable — but that doesn't mean everything is recyclable. Check out our Where It Goes guide at BurbankRecycle.org to find out what belongs in your curbside carts.

Yes, Your Recyclables Are Being Recycled

We've been asked recently whether City curbside trucks are mixing trash and recycling together. For the record, your black, green and blue carts are being collected **separately** on your regular pickup day and being processed separately.

However, the City does receive requests for “missed or extra pickup” service (what we call “off-route” service). In this case, it is more efficient to send one truck back out for all these extra requests, which means materials are collected together and taken to the landfill.

We work very hard to collect all carts that are out on time to avoid having missed carts. If a resident informs us of a missed service right away and if the truck is still in the area, the City will try to have the truck return and service the carts separately. Otherwise, it is scheduled for the off-route service.

Remember, if you call for a missed green or blue cart service, it's possible these items will be collected and mixed together. If you want to ensure the materials are being recycled, then it is preferable to wait to set it out until your next regular collection service day.

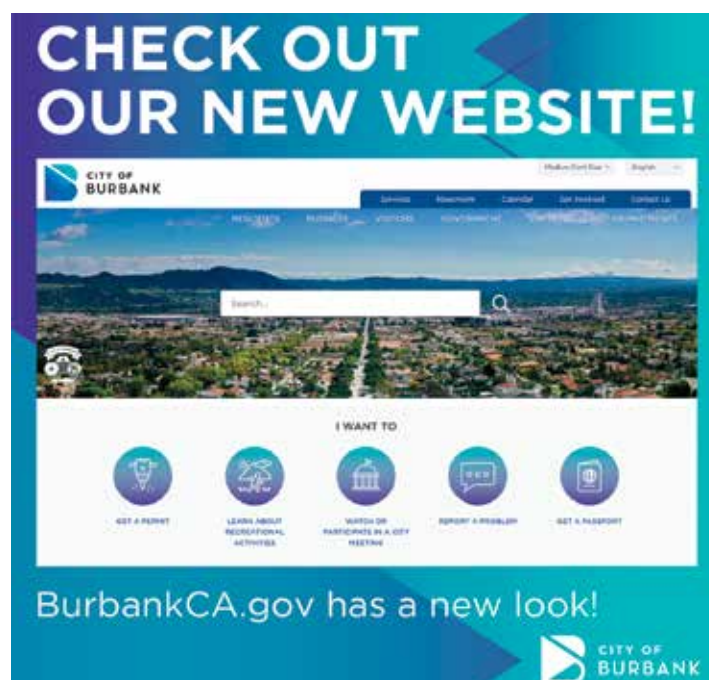
With any questions or for further clarifications, please contact Field Services at 818-238-3800.

New City Website

This past spring, the City of Burbank launched a new website created with the user experience in mind. The new and improved site is easy to navigate and provides citizens a more user-friendly resource when looking for information, even on a smartphone.

Check it out at BurbankCA.gov. The Recycle Center page can still be located at **BurbankRecycle.org** or through other sections:

- Under Residents > Resident Services > Recycle Center
- Under Departments > Public Works > Trash and Recycling > Recycle Center



You'll find information about a variety of City services and programs, latest announcements, news and events, email alert sign-up options and so much more at the City's re-vamped website.

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SUMMER 2021

The Green Cart's Journey

The Burbank landfill staff has recently created a video to show residents how the green waste collection and processing operation works.

On average, the City of Burbank collects 63 tons of green waste daily. This material is picked up at the curb, transported to the landfill and unloaded, before being transferred to a composting facility. Prior to transport, landfill staff remove a plethora of contaminants (plastic bags, plant pots, trash, etc.) from the large pile of organic waste, such as grass clippings and other landscape materials. (Food is not yet allowed in the green bin but will be soon.)

The clean organics are then transported 163 miles to the facility with which the City of Burbank contracts in Tulare, California. Three semi-truckloads are shipped out five days a week, year-round, which is the equivalent of taking a one-way trip to Portland, Oregon every weekday!



Watch this short video of the City's green waste collection service at youtu.be/k5VnaG4fkbk.

Backyard Composting Is an Alternative

The City has to go through this costly and intensive process because green waste is not allowed in California landfills and facilities that accept this material are at a premium. But the good news is there is an alternative way to handle this material — in your own backyard, creating nutrient-rich compost that could improve your gardens. When you grasscycle clippings (leave them on the lawn) and compost yard debris, you not only have healthier plants but also help decrease costs for our City, reduce wear and tear on our roads, limit greenhouse gas emissions from methane and lower our City's carbon footprint.

Learn more about putting these resources back to productive use in your yard through the Recycle Center's composting workshops, held on the last Wednesday of the month through October.

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING WORKSHOP @ HOME

Next Zoom Workshop July 28th!

THE COMMUNITY-GROWING SOLUTION

Transform your soil and your neighborhood with this solution that minimizes "waste" and values Nature's resources!

Join the Burbank Recycle Center live for our Zoom composting workshop series

Last Wednesday of the month

For dates and registration: www.BurbankRecycle.org

A Reduce and Reuse Program
brought to you by



There is nothing better than firing up the grill for a barbeque, but do you know how to properly dispose of your hot ashes and charcoal? These materials can retain heat for hours and even days after you have put out your fire. To protect yourself from injury and to minimize your risk of fire, treat all coals and ashes as fire risks and follow these easy steps to dispose of them safely:

- Allow coals to burn out completely and let ashes cool for at least 48 hours. Make sure no other combustible materials are nearby.
- Dispose of cold ashes by wrapping them in heavy-duty aluminum foil and placing them in your trash cart.
- After putting ashes into the cart, please keep it outdoors.
- If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, soak them in water and place them in heavy-duty aluminum foil before placing them in your trash cart.
- DO NOT place ashes or charcoal in your blue recycling cart or green yard waste cart.
- **Garden tip:** Spreading cold ashes in garden beds can give your plants an alkaline boost.

Dumping hot ashes and coals into the bed of a trash truck creates a significant risk for a dangerous truck fire! Please protect your sanitation workers, your neighbors and the environment by ensuring the proper disposal of these materials. For more information, go to nfpa.org/grilling.

Another New Normal: Food Out of the Trash

Nearly 40% of all food grown in the U.S. goes uneaten, including roughly 6 million tons of food scraps each year. This represents about 18% of all the material that goes to landfills in California. Plus, the decomposition of food and other organic materials in landfills produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

While there has been a state recycling mandate for food and organic waste generated by businesses since 2016, a new organics reduction law is fast approaching that will expand this requirement to most generators, including residents. Senate Bill (SB) 1383, the state's Short Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Strategy, goes into effect January 1, 2022 and aims to reach its goal of 75% reduction of landfilled organic waste through recycling and composting of food scraps and yard trimmings within a few years.

City staff are in the planning stages for providing organics recycling collection services to all residential and commercial locations in 2022. A food donation network is also being developed that will make it easier for businesses to donate excess food to those in need, helping businesses offset their waste hauling costs while doing good for their community.

Considering that Burbank has its own landfill, reallocating organics into compost, energy or donation helps to conserve resources, address food insecurity, preserve landfill space and achieve ambitious climate change goals, which will reduce the potential for costly climate impacts in the future.

Help Burbank Plant 500 Trees

You can get free shade trees for your home or business through BWP's Shade Tree Program.

Call (818) 957-8196 to get free shade trees!

Introducing the Burbank Eco Council

Imagine, Burbank school children growing up in an ecosystem surrounded by solar renewables, nourished by gardens and nature, and inspired by circular design that translates to minimal waste. That is the vision of the Burbank Eco Council, a group of committed parents, school staff and faculty, students and volunteers, who are developing sustainable programs and practices in the educational environment. So far, the Eco Council has members representing several Burbank schools and looking to have programs district-wide.

Founding member, Karen Lau, tells us about the origins of the Council and how this diverse group intends to make Burbank a leader in greening our schools and community.

How did the Burbank Eco Council start?

Many of our members were inspired by the Burbank Recycle Center's Waste Warrior training program. In the fall of 2019, Amy Hammes (Waste Warrior Coordinator) united parents working on independent sustainability efforts in the schools to create a cooperative support network. This soon evolved into a platform to transfer wisdom and to support each other with PTA-backed sustainability committees and garden groups.

What are some of the projects you are working on?

Our projects reflect the varied interests of our members and their gifts to our students. They include developing a supplemental curriculum for student eco clubs, hosting outreach events to raise eco-awareness in the commu-



Setting up or bringing back school garden programs is a big priority for the Burbank Eco Council. These Roosevelt Elementary parents set up garden boxes (pre-pandemic photo), and new plantings will be a wonderful asset when school returns in the fall.

nity, reducing waste during school dining, planting school gardens for all, and creating an "Eco Playbook" recommending best practices around the health of our students. The most visible project we did was for Earth Week — an hour each day devoted to inspiring K-12 students to be stewards and leaders of our planet by seeing other students in action.

What lessons have you learned?

Often, we hear about a garden or program disappearing when the originally committed individual leaves. To ensure these programs are sustainable, we have set up team organization with counsel, transparency, open knowledge transfer and documentation (assisted by Google Drive) so the next leadership can build from where we left off.

We have also learned that for a program to succeed and sustain itself, we need all stakeholders in the school systems on board. When we start a program about waste reduction or resources sorting, we really need buy-in and support from site supervisors



The Eco Council moved their meetings to Zoom to keep members inspired and moving forward during the pandemic.

Reviving Our Local Ecosystem

Citizens are planting the seeds of change to benefit our native wildlife. A new group, The Monarch Mile, is made up of volunteers who recently planted California native plants in four beds along the Chandler Bike-way. The group's goal is to help expand native plant habitats in Burbank for Monarch butterflies and other essential pollinators. Visit TheMonarchMile.com for more information.



"Bin" confused about recycling? The Curb Your Recycling webinar provides insight on disposal to help residents better understand what happens when you throw something "away."

WASTE WARRIORS

BOOTCAMP

Curb Your Recycling
Understanding Recycling
and Waste Prevention

Wednesday, August 4, 2021 | 6-7:30pm | Platform: Zoom
Register: BurbankRecycle.org (Events)

and principals or the efforts won't work.

How has COVID changed your strategy and priorities?

We moved all our meetings to Zoom and actually formed several new school Sustainability Committees during COVID! We started focusing on more collaborative projects, such as the Eco Playbook, a school sustainability toolkit and online eco events — projects that are important to us as individuals and as a group. Also, we are supporting eco-related grant development, since grants are the only alternative to fundraising. When it's safe to return to schools, we'll be ready with our teams, toolkits and best practices.

Meanwhile, we learned of an unrelated student-led group from the John Burrows High School Eco Club that had started doing upcycled art classes for K-5 students on Zoom. Now they are part of our intergenerational team. Definitely a silver lining!

How does what you learned from the Waste Warrior Program steer your priorities?

It is a filter we can't get rid of! We have a heightened "waste is everywhere" lens on all the time and we always think about how we can refuse, reduce and reuse before we recycle. It becomes a framework to ask ourselves, "Is that the best solution?" If not,

then it doesn't fit into our ethos. It has also connected like-minded citizens and parents and empowered us to join together and act.

How do you see the Eco Council schools evolving?

Inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible — we want all schools to be a part of the Eco Council so that we can create and innovate for sustainable change and ensure that all students have access to our environment. Fostering environmental rights translates directly to human rights.

To find out more about the work the Burbank Eco Council is doing or to join their efforts, contact burbank.eco.council@gmail.com.



Students helped their parents establish new waste reducing programs, like a costume swap (pre-pandemic program and photo).

Tangles Up the Blue

NEVER place plastic bags and similar plastic film wrap products, like bread or dry-cleaning bags, into recycling carts. Clean, dry plastic bags and plastic wrap can be gathered together and delivered to plastic bag recycling bins at local stores. For the drop-off location nearest you, visit plasticfilmrecycling.org.

When these film items are mixed with other recyclables, they get tangled in equipment at sorting facilities, causing frequent stops to remove them and sometimes

damaging the equipment. For tangle-free recycling, avoid placing plastic film and long items that can wrap around recycling machinery in the blue cart. Other common “tangles” include:

- Garden hoses
- Long ribbon
- String lights
- Cords

More Film-Free Tips

Reduce unnecessary plastic bags by never bagging recycling — recyclables should be placed clean, dry and loose in your cart.



Seeing Beauty in Society's Discards



If you didn't think “art” and “landfill” could intersect, then City of Burbank Lead Landfill Worker Luis Carlos will show you the value that others don't see. Luis wanted the City's landfill to be more than just a place for waste to be buried. With his sculptures that repurpose discarded materials, Luis has created joy for our landfill staff, the City refuse haulers and those who visit the facility. His sculptures range from palm trees with leaves made from strips of tires to a Star Wars universe-inspired robot and a colorful tortoise planter made from a truck tire.

“I try my best to see the beauty in what people discard,” said Luis.

To learn more about our resident landfill artist, visit burbankarts.com/artists/luis-carlos.



Burbank Where it GOES

Answers at Your Disposal

With our online search tool, learn “where it goes” for more than 300 items, including these recently added materials:

Brushes and Combs
Chainsaws (Gas and Electric)
Face Masks
Fiberboard (MDF)
Flags
Glow Sticks
Ice Cream Cartons
Kids' Pools
Lawnmowers
License Plates
Medical Equipment
Nut Cans (Mixed Material)
Paint Brushes and Rollers
Paper Receipts

Pet Supplies
Plastic Plates
Plexiglass
Pool Covers
Pots and Planters
Produce Stickers
Razor Blades
Satellite Dishes
Silly String
Solar Panels
Sports Equipment
Toilets
Wetsuits
Wood and Pellet Stoves

BurbankRecycle.org • WhereItGoes.burbankca.gov

Takeout Trash

Over the past year, many of us have been supporting our local restaurants and taking a break from our own cooking with carryout food. But with all those food pickups and deliveries, a lot of extra trash has been created, much of which is plastic. So, what is recyclable and what's not in the takeout packaging? Unfortunately, in Burbank almost all takeout packaging is not recyclable and needs to go directly to your trash cart. The exception is clear plastic containers marked with a #5, but even these must have all food removed and be rinsed.

One way to take the waste out of takeout is through cutting out cutlery, napkins and packets. Large food delivery services have agreed to offer single-use cutlery only “upon request” thanks to a local campaign to rethink wasteful practices by the Malibu-based organization Habits of Waste. Learn more on how to #cutoutcutlery at habitsofthewaste.org.



City of Burbank

Mayor: Bob Frutos

Vice Mayor: Jess Talamantes

Council Members:

Sharon Springer

Konstantine Anthony

Nick Schultz

★★★★★

Public Works Customer Service

Public Works Field Services:
818-238-3800

Distribution and collection of trash, green waste and recycling bins and carts

Bulky Item Pickup:
818-238-3800

To request pickup of oversized furniture and appliances only



Burbank Recycle Center
500 South Flower Street, 91502

Check our website for COVID-19 updates on hours and requirements.

BurbankRecycle.org

Recycle Center: 818-238-3900
Recycling, donation options, hazardous waste, composting

Whereitgoes.Burbankca.gov



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