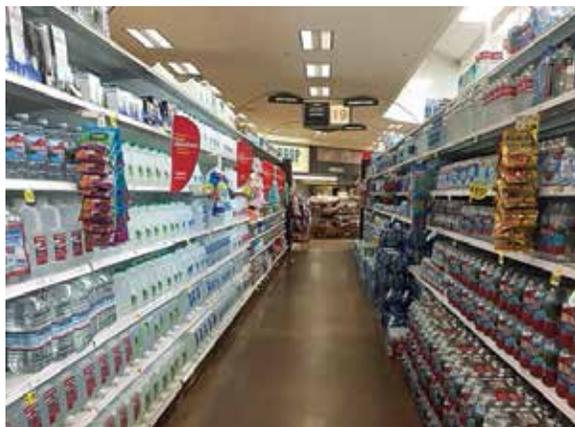


REDUCE, REUSE, RETHINK BURBANK

PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER



Why Is Bottled Water So Expensive?



Much of the cost of bottled water is the bottle! "It costs a lot of money to stand out in a crowded marketplace when you are selling, basically, the most common thing on Earth."
~ Derek Thompson, Business Editor at The Atlantic

According to the Water Footprint Calculator, it takes at least two liters of water during production to make one liter of bottled water. Often, not all of the water inside the bottle is even consumed. While the environmental impacts of bottled water are well known, an issue that is largely ignored is the expense. Purchasing water is now part of the family budget for many — a new phenomenon compared to previous generations who relied on well or tap water. Do the math and the differences in costs are shocking! Depending on the brand and where it is purchased, bottled water can cost from 240 to 10,000 times the cost of tap water.

Here's what you are paying for when you buy a bottle of water:

- Materials, energy and labor to make the bottle
- Designing, printing and affixing the label
- Sourcing the water, either paying cities for water rights or developing proprietary water sources
- Filling the bottles
- Packaging the bottles for shipment
- Transporting bottles to warehouses and then to stores
- Marketing and advertising the brand

Organics Recycling Mandate Now Affects More Businesses

Under Assembly Bill 1826, California businesses are required to reduce the amount of organics sent to landfills. Organics include both food scraps and yard debris. As of January 1, 2019, organics recycling is mandatory for businesses that generate 4 or more cubic yards of solid waste (trash, recyclables and organics) per week. While multi-family properties (5+ units) are also under the organics diversion mandate for yard trimmings, they are exempt from the food scraps portion. Check with your waste hauler or broker to confirm that your business or multi-family property is in compliance with mandatory commercial organics recycling requirements.



One way for businesses to keep their organic waste out of the trash is to donate edible food to a non-profit organization. Thanks to California's Good Samaritan Law, donors are protected from liability when donating food in good faith to non-profit organizations which, in turn, give the food away for free. To learn more about food donation, visit SavetheFoodLA.com.

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Extra! Extra! Read All About It

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Some of our tech savvy residents have asked why we still *print* our newsletter. Certainly, the mantra of "reduce and reuse" is important, so online communications are part of Burbank Recycle Center's outreach efforts. We have a robust website and post regularly on social media. However, as a City agency, we have a responsibility to reach all of our residents, many of whom prefer to receive some or all materials in print. Plus, some readers like to save a printed copy of our newsletter for reference. (We also post these articles online at BurbankRecycle.org.)

This newsletter is printed on newsprint, which is still one of the most recycled products nationwide. If you won't be keeping the newsletter for reference, please recycle it — or consider reusing it first. Here are some ideas provided by our Burbank Waste Warrior graduates:

- Share it with others.
- File it for reference.
- Clean windows and mirrors. Then discard it in the *trash* after use.
- Line a bird cage and then compost the paper and bird droppings in your backyard compost bin.
- Shred it to create bedding for your vermicompost (worm composting) bin.
- Wrap and store valuables.
- Use it as packing material when shipping a gift or preparing to move.
- Create art, such as collages, papier-mâché, origami or woven mats.
- Wrap gifts.
- Line the bottom of waste baskets instead of using plastic liners.
- Donate newspapers to the Burbank Animal Shelter for paper to line kitty boxes.
- Spread newspapers in gardens below mulch to suppress weeds.

REDUCING PACKAGING

Don't Have a Cow

Reduce Milk Carton Packaging



Credit: iakovkalinin | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Cartons are not recyclable in Burbank so look for milk in plastic (#1, #2 or #5) or glass bottles.

If you'd prefer to reduce your waste footprint even more, try refillable glass bottles, such as Straus Family Creamery's organic cream and milk. There is a \$2 deposit for each glass bottle, which is refunded when the rinsed bottle is returned to the store. The bottles are washed, sanitized and refilled an average of five times before being recycled. More than 80% of bottles are returned for reuse.

If you are dairy-free, you can make your own nut milk with a high speed blender or a nut milk appliance. You will know exactly what ingredients went into your favorite drink and it tastes so good you may never want to go back to store-bought. Create less waste by drying the leftover pulp in the oven at a low temperature then grinding it to make a fluffy flour.

Remember — Burbank Recycle Center doesn't accept any cartons for recycling, so also opt for soup in tin cans and juice in bottles.



Photo courtesy of Buy Nothing Project

Choosing Recyclable Packaging

Preferred:

- Cardboard and paperboard boxes – Remove plastic liners and windows. Discard polystyrene foam packing materials.
- Tin (steel) cans
- Aluminum beverage cans
- Glass bottles, jars and jugs (It is better to drop these off at the Burbank Recycle Center than to place them in curbside carts.)
- Plastic detergent jugs
- Other plastic bottles, jugs, jars and containers marked #1, #2, #4 or #5
- Loose bulk items (Bring your own bag.)
- Refillables
- Reusable shopping and produce bags



Look for the "How2Recycle" label as a guide. These on-package labels provide clear recycling instructions and can be found on many products. Learn more at How2Recycle.info.

Avoid:

- Cartons (Burbank does not accept these for recycling.)
- Polystyrene foam cups, plates and packaging
- Multi-layered packaging materials, such as juice boxes, chip and coffee bags and individually wrapped snacks
- Single-use products, such as paper/plastic plates and bowls, plastic utensils, drink cups and take-out ware
- Film plastic, such as bags and beverage shrink wraps

For more details on what is and is not accepted for recycling, go to BurbankRecycle.org and click on the "What Can Be Recycled?" tab.

Buy Nothing. Give Freely. Prevent Waste.

Find out what your neighbors are doing to give, share and build community through the Buy Nothing Project. The project helps residents work together to reduce and reuse. The local groups convene on Facebook. To learn more, visit BuyNothingProject.org.

Chasing Arrows: Labels Can Be Deceiving

The chasing-arrows recycling symbol has long been viewed as synonymous with positive environmental action. But does it really symbolize "green" actions or whether an item is even recyclable? It helps to understand the history of this famous logo and what it means today.

During the lead-up to the first Earth Day in 1970, the Container Corporation of America, a recycled cardboard manufacturer, sponsored a nationwide contest to create a symbol to represent the process of recycling paper. A panel of judges evaluated over 500 entries and eventually chose the design by Gary Dean Anderson, a University of Southern California engineering student. Anderson's winning submission was a series of three chasing arrows in a continuous loop both finite and infinite (much like the famous Mobius strip). This loop symbolized the idea of discarded material, like paper, being put back into useful production, creating a circular system of producing, using and recycling.

As recycling grew and expanded in the following decades, the symbol served as a visual cue, crossing age and language barriers.



Arrows Shift to Plastic

Even though the chasing-arrows recycling logo was originally created by and for the paper industry, the logo has become more well-known on plastic items as a chemical (resin) identifier, not necessarily an environmental symbol or a green light for recyclability. This shift co-opted the intended closed loop of recycling and created much of the consumer confusion. Not all plastics are made from the same components and resins, so they cannot be mixed together in remanufacturing. The different numbers help recyclers and processors keep each type of plastic separate. Some resins are more widely used and thus more recyclable than others.

Today, the logo is one of the most recognized symbols in the world but has become misleading. While almost anything is technically recyclable, market changes have led to only a small handful of products and packages being accepted in recycling programs, in spite of some manufacturers' recyclability claims or the chasing arrows logo on the package. Avoid recycling confusion — don't rely on the logo alone! Go to BurbankRecycle.org ("What Can Be Recycled?" tab) to learn what's accepted for recycling here.

LEARN TO REFILL

How to Bulk Up

If you seek to reduce plastic packaging, your best bet is the bulk section of grocery and other stores. Unlike warehouse-style shopping, bulk allows for exact portions so you buy only the amount you NEED, which reduces cupboard clutter and lessens the risk of things spoiling or becoming stale before being used up, such as spices. Follow these tips to improve your bulk section shopping skills:

1. Match the style of clean containers and reusable bags you bring to the items on your shopping list. Carry them in a reusable shopping bag. (Some stores will not allow customers to use outside containers, so check with the store manager first.)
2. If you bring in containers and bags, you'll need to weigh them in advance (called "tare" weight). The exact weight to the ounce will be subtracted at checkout so you pay for the food or items only, not the weight of the container. Ask customer service how and where to weigh your containers and how to record the tare weight. They might allow you to write the tare weight on the jar or bag with a marker.
3. Fill your containers with food and other bulk items and record the PLU (price look-up) code for each item. The PLU is a code that identifies the item and its price. Avoid wasting store-provided tags by recording PLUs on your own scratch paper or in your phone by taking a photo of the number to show the cashier at checkout.



Credit: Newman Studio | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Regional Refilling Guide

The Burbank Recycle Center has created a list of where to find bulk and refillable options in the LA area. As refilling becomes mainstream, options will continue to expand. Ask your local store to add refillable and bulk options.

Grocery

- **Sprouts** (Burbank): Grains, beans, nuts, seeds, granola, snacks, baking supplies, dried fruits and more
- **Whole Foods** (Burbank): Dried beans, nuts, flours, granola, candy and coffee beans
- **Lassens Natural Food and Vitamins** (Los Feliz, Echo Park)
- **Erewhon Market** (Los Angeles): Grains, beans, nuts, seeds, snacks, herbs, spices, teas and more
- **Rainbow Acres** (Mar Vista): Dry goods (beans, grains, nuts, seeds and snacks), liquids (soy sauce, olive oil, agave and honey), herbs, spices and teas, as well as cleaning supplies like borax, beeswax and soaps
- **Co+opportunity** (Santa Monica, Culver City – membership required): Grains, nuts, beans, granola, snacks and dried fruit — Outside containers are allowed and can be weighed by Customer Service or at any cashier before filling.
- **Farmers' Markets:** Produce, prepared foods and other items

Soaps, Body Care and Cleaning

- **Sustain LA** (Traveling Refill Station and pop-up store): Household cleaning supplies; bath and beauty products –

Bring your own container or purchase one of theirs to fill. (See article at right.)

- **Broome St. General Store** (Los Feliz): Carries Common Good refill products, such as hand, laundry, dish and all-purpose soaps for body and home
- **No Tox Life** (Glassell Park): New refill store opening Earth Day 2019 carrying personal care and general home cleaning products, including their own brand line
- **Lush** (Glendale Galleria): Many plastic free products and vegan options – no refillables

Pets

- **Centinela Feed and Pet Supplies** (Burbank): Chews and other treats sold loose without packaging (charged by item, not weight)
- **Protein for Pets** (Santa Clarita): Dry and freeze-dried food in bulk — Bring your own bag or container.
- **Just Food for Dogs (and Cats)** (Sherman Oaks, West Hollywood, Downtown LA): Take a cooking class to learn their recipes and make it yourself.

Other Regional Options

- **The Refill Shoppe** (Ventura): Toiletries, kitchen, home care and bath products, as well as sustainable reusables for home and personal use
- **VomFASS** (Claremont, Ventura, Huntington Beach): Oils and vinegars — Bring your own clean bottles.

Filling a Niche

Sustain LA's Refill Station

Each year, plastic pollution, especially in our oceans, increases. Although awareness about this pollution continues to grow, concerned citizens are left wondering what they can do, other than not littering and participating in recycling. Meanwhile, at the store, more and more products are only sold in single-use, disposable — and often non-recyclable — packages.

Leslie VanKeuren Campbell, owner of the zero waste consulting and events business, Sustain LA, saw an opportunity to provide items that are non-toxic with zero disposable packaging. She launched the first refillable household and body care business in Northeast Los Angeles.

Like a traveling, ethical eco-medicine show, Campbell showcases sustainably sourced shampoos, lotions, detergents, powders and various other items in bulk at select farmers' markets and pop-up stores in partnership with local retailers. Customers are encouraged to bring in their own containers, but Campbell also offers reusables for purchase. Buying in bulk allows buying only the amount needed. You pay by the ounce, so you aren't paying for product you will never use or the design and manufacture of its packaging.

For those who can't make the scheduled appearances, Sustain LA's Refill Station also offers refill delivery, with a wider selection of products found online. And yes, zero waste is still practiced since the bottles and jars are washed and refilled again.

As support for the business and the trend of refilling grows, Campbell is looking to expand the Refill Station's product offerings and, eventually, move to a permanent retail space. Aside from the high cost of retail space in the area, she faces hurdles in sourcing products in bulk, including finding vendors that meet environmental, ethical and quality standards. In order to reduce emissions impacts, Campbell also seeks, as much as possible, products that are made locally or regionally.

While it is true that bulk products require some packaging from the manufacturer to the distributor, many of the vendors take back their own containers to wash and refill. Some products come in plastic containers, but they are the types of plastic that are locally recyclable.

In the two years since opening, the Refill Station has found enthusiastic return customers who are now pros on refilling, as well as curious newcomers with lots of questions about zero waste options. Two of the more popular refillable items might surprise you: toothpaste and deodorant. For ambitious customers who want to create and mix their own low-impact products, such as cosmetics, facial masks or cleaning agents, the Refill Station sells bulk DIY ingredients.

So add reduce, reuse and REFILL to that shopping list and give refilling a try. For a calendar of Refill Station appearances, go to SustainLA.com/refill-station.



The Sustain LA Refill Station is located at the Highland Park Farmers' Market and the Altadena Farmers' Market on alternating weeks, as well as at Atwater Village and Hollywood Farmers' Markets, retail stores, fundraisers and zero waste workshops. For a calendar of Refill Station appearances, go to SustainLA.com/refill-station.

- **Sorrento Italian Market** (Culver City): House-cured kalamata and castelvetrano olives, bulk cheeses, meats, marinated artichoke hearts and prepared salads — Bring your own container.
- **WinCo Foods** (Lakewood, Ventura): Over 1,000 bulk items and pantry staples, such as grains, beans, nuts, spices, seeds, cereals, candy, dried fruit, granola, flour, avocado oil, nut butters, liquid sweeteners like agave and honey, and dog and cat food
- **BYO** (Algalita's headquarters in Long Beach, farmers' markets,

and pop-up locations): Bulk home and beauty products, like shampoo, conditioner, body wash, hand soap, body lotion, jojoba oil, Castile soap, baking soda, laundry detergent, dish soap and dishwasher detergent, as well as zero waste goods for the home

Keep in mind that information and offerings are subject to change so it's always best to check with the store in advance. If you have any suggestions or corrections for this list or your business has refillable options, please contact AHammes@burbankca.gov.

Spring Cleaning?

Think About Your Sewer Pipes

As you are doing your spring cleaning, you may not think below ground, but maybe you should. According to Burbank Municipal Code (BMC) 8-1-107, the property owner is responsible to clean, maintain and repair their sewer lateral from the house connection to the City sewer main. Because of the past several years of drought, roots have been migrating further into private sewer laterals. That means your sewer pipes may be slowly clogging, which can result in messy backups and costly repairs. Spring is a great time to clean out above and below ground. The City's Sewer Lateral User Rebate Program (SLURP) is designed to assist single-family and duplex properties with maintaining and repairing their private sewer laterals. To learn more about the SLURP program, visit BurbankCA.gov (search for "SLURP") or contact the Public Works' Wastewater Division at 818-238-3915.



Give Recycling a Second Look

Have old eyeglasses around not getting any wear? Donate them! The Lions Club will accept your eyeglasses at the Burbank Recycle Center, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donating your used eye glasses to the Lions Recycle for Sight program will help their mission to provide no-cost primary eye care in economically disadvantaged countries. For more drop-off locations, visit Directory.LionsClubs.org.



Credit: SasinParaksa | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Watch a documentary film written and produced by the Burbank Public Information Office about the Lions Club Recycle for Sight program. The 12-minute film explains each step in the process from collection sites like the Burbank Recycle Center to placing needed glasses in the hands of recipients thousands of miles away. Find the video online at Youtube.com/watch?v=13RnheMOUJg.

Storm Drains: The Portal to Our Rivers and Oceans



The rainy season may be over, but it is always important to keep pollutants out of storm drains, waterways and beaches. Follow these simple tips:

- Pick up after your pets.
- Throw your trash where it belongs — in trash cans or recycling bins, never on the ground or in the street gutter.
- Never toss cigarette butts (the number one source of litter) on the ground.
- Sweep up dirt instead of hosing down the pavement.
- Wash your vehicle on your lawn and not your driveway.

Food Scrap Drop-Off

LA Compost has partnered with select farmers' markets to create food scrap drop-offs. Collect and freeze your food scraps during the week, place them in a reusable container, paper bag, or box, and then drop them off at the LA Compost booth on Sundays. (NO meat, dairy, pet food, kitty litter, plastic or bioplastic.)

Atwater Village Farmers' Market
Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
3528 Larga Ave., Los Angeles 90039
Sponsored by the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council

Los Feliz Farmers' Market
1st & 3rd Sundays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
1825 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 90027
Sponsored by the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council



For more information, visit LACompost.org/hubs.



COMPOSTING: THE HOMEGROWN SOLUTION!

Burbank Recycle Center hosts a series of workshops to help you transform your dirt into rich, chocolate soil.

Workshop Schedule

May 29 • June 26 • July 31 • August 28
September 25 • October 30 • November 27

All are held on the LAST WEDNESDAY of the month at the Burbank Recycle Center (500 S. Flower St.) from 6 – 8 p.m.

Saturday Workshops

July 13 • October 5
9 – 11 a.m.
Starlight Bowl

Leisurely Lunch

Friday, May 3
Noon – 2 p.m.
Bring your lunch!
Burbank Recycle Center

Registration is required! To reserve your space, go to BurbankRecycle.org.

City of Burbank
Mayor: Emily Gabel-Luddy
Council Members:
Bob Frutos
Timothy M. Murphy
Sharon Springer
Jess Talamantes
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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: 818-238-3805
To request pickup of oversized furniture and appliances only



Burbank Recycle Center
500 South Flower Street, 91502
Recycling and Redemption Center Hours:
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (Closed Sunday)

Monday–Friday Drop Zone:
Closed Saturday

BurbankRecycle.org

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

 Facebook.com/
BurbankRecycle