

# AVI News

Working with your community  
to keep Dublin green



Issue 23

[www.AmadorValleyIndustries.Com](http://www.AmadorValleyIndustries.Com)

July 2011

## Summertime is Finally Here!

You are probably familiar with the 3 Rs of the recycling process. These days you hear a lot about Recycling, for example, which materials to put in your blue top cart but not as much about the other 2 Rs - Reduce and Reuse.



resources, helps with greenhouse gas reduction and can save you money. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Keep reusable cloth/canvas bags in your car so you will never forget to bring them along when you are shopping. Compared to plastic/paper bags they are more durable and easy to carry.
- Do not accept a bag when making small purchases
- Avoid non-compostable and non-recyclable packaging; avoid polystyrene whenever possible for example egg cartons
- Buy bulk food items to reduce the amount of packaging
- Use refillable water bottles instead of purchasing single-use water bottles when possible

### Reduce, or Precycling

Precycling is trying to reduce waste by “pre-thinking” your purchases. Precycling is part of the answer and becoming a buzz word for this next decade. Precycling is reducing waste by not acquiring it in the first place (even if it is recyclable). Precycling saves precious natural

- Use reusable products such as plates, glasses, napkins, dinnerware and tablecloths that may be washed and reused. Many products that are labeled disposable such as plates, cups and silverware are durable enough and can be placed in your dishwasher
- Borrow or rent items that you use only seasonally or occasionally
- Wrap gifts in reusable items to match the occasion like receiving blankets or dish towels
- Make decorations with reusable or recyclable material
- Avoid junk mail

### Reuse

This is the most creative of the 3 Rs. This is your opportunity to look at items you would normally just throw away and think of ways to reuse them to take the place of items you might purchase.

- Reuse packing materials – Reuse the wire twist ties that come in toy packaging to bind all sorts of things around the house like extension cords or computer/printer cords. Also, reuse the silica packets that you get in a shoebox or new purse by putting a few of them into boxes and bins with holiday decorations or seasonal clothes to help keep out moisture
- Use a reusable coffee mug, think of how many paper cups and plastic lids could be saved
- Use a permanent coffee filter
- Use a sponge instead of a paper towels
- Store left-overs in durable glass containers, instead of plastic containers that may not be as microwave friendly

### We Want Our Service to Be The Best and You Can Help

Please place your carts at the curb edge with at least 3 feet of clearance from other objects, including other carts, basketball hoops and motor vehicles.



### What Do I Put Into the Organics Cart?

The reason Organics Carts are so important is that using them helps divert materials away from our landfills which is better for the environment. Here is a list to help you use your cart efficiently. Thank you for helping us provide you with the best possible service.

#### Organics Acceptable List

- Grass and weed clippings
- Shrubs and tree prunings (less than 4" in diameter)
- Leaves, plants and flowers
- Food scraps and food soiled paper products

#### Non-acceptable Organics List

- No household garbage
- **No plastic bags**
- No dirt or rocks
- No overloading - lid must be closed

### Amador Valley Industries

Mailing Address P.O. Box 12617 Pleasanton, CA 94588 - Corporate Address 11875 Dublin Blvd. Suite D167, Dublin CA  
Phone 925-479-9545 Fax 925-479-0650

# JAVA-CYCLING



Nothing like a hot cup of Joe to get you going in the morning right? But that is only one of the many benefits of your morning pick-me-up.

**YARD USES** Used coffee grounds can be used to fight off bugs that live around your outdoor plants and trees. Sprinkle a ring of coffee grounds around the edges of your plants to kill yard pests without poisoning the ecosystem. Coffee grounds are an inexpensive, non-toxic and, in small doses, will not injure pets, small children, or the environment. If you are not a coffee drinker at home, check with local coffee shops about taking some of their used grounds home. If you have a concern about plants in the area you are treating, neutralize the acidic content of the coffee grounds by mixing them with four parts shredded leaves or potting soil to one part coffee grounds. Plants

such as rosebushes, azaleas, rhododendrons, evergreen and camellias that prefer acidic soils will appreciate the straight leftovers from your morning cup.

Sometimes when the weather turns dry ants will head for your house in search of water and food. Consider sprinkling a good amount in dirt & lawn that is next to your house to create a protective barrier. Kitties using your flower beds and garden as their personal powder room? No problem, sprinkle grounds mixed with orange peels around your plants and you have an eco-friendly kitty repellent that won't harm them.

**HOUSEHOLD USES** Turn those Java beans into a grease busting machine. Instead of throwing away the coffee grounds from your morning brew use them this summer to scrub the gunk off your grill and greasy pans. Steep some grounds in a small amount of water and use a cotton swab to touch up furniture scratches. Flush them down your drains and let the abrasive action clean your pipes. (Not recommend for septic systems). For an odor repellent spread a thin layer on a cookie sheet and dry them thoroughly. Fill old nylons with the dry grounds, and tie off the ends. Hang in closets to absorb odors. Works in the refrigerator as well. Before you clean out the fireplace, toss wet coffee grounds over the ashes to keep the ash dust under control as you remove them so you are not breathing in the dust.



In the spirit of conservation we are providing our newsletter online, but please feel free to print it out.