



# AVI News

Issue 50

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

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## SPRING CLEANING

*Please be on the lookout for toxic items that don't belong in the trash, recycling or greenwaste cart. For example, all types of batteries (household or lithium-ion), chemicals from weed killer to paint thinners, sharps or medical waste and fluorescent light bulbs. Non-toxic items that are great to divert from trash to recycling cart: Paper, cardboard, aluminum containers and foil, steel or tin cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and tubs (such as yogurt, margarine and cottage cheese, numbers 1 - 7.) Environmentally great things to divert from trash to greenwaste cart: Grass and weed clippings, shrubs and tree prunings, leaves, plants and flowers, food scraps and food soiled paper products.*



### Technology and the Waste Stream

Over the last two decades there have been many discoveries in the study of our waste stream. A major concern that prompted these studies was the amount of waste going into landfills, an amount that would be unsustainable over time considering the limited amount of landfill space. This lead to many ideas to divert the amount of trash into recycling carts and greenwaste carts. At the same time, environmental studies have been conducted regarding the residues of technology, for example, the heavy metals and corrosive materials from household batteries, lithium-ion batteries and electronic circuit boards that can pollute our landfills for centuries. We also have more pressing problems lately with toxic chemicals breaking open and combining to create toxic gasses and lithium-ion batteries creating fires in carts at homes and service trucks. Please take your household hazardous waste to the HHW drop off location in Livermore at 5584 La Ribera Street. Visit StopWaste.org for directions and information.

We must be vigilant! If we prevent just one person suffering inhalation of toxic gasses, one firefighter battling a lithium-ion battery fire and preventing harm to one of our PGS employees that help us move our wastestream along it will be well worth it. So please, anytime something is about to leave your hand into a trash receptacle, remember our mantra... Stop, Think, Recycle. Help us keep toxic chemicals and heavy metals out of our landfills and divert as much recyclable or compostable materials into recycling and greenwaste carts.

Throughout our quarterly newsletters we will share as many sources as possible to help you deal with hazardous materials that can no longer be put in the trash. One of our best resources is StopWaste.org, call 1-877-STOPWASTE (786-7927) for safe disposal options from chemicals to electronics. The [www.recyclewhere.org](http://www.recyclewhere.org) website has hundreds of pages of information that will help you find disposal alternatives for any item. Consider creating a contact in your phone for StopWaste 1-877-786-7927 in case you ever need information for yourself or a friend.

### 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

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# Local Leaders of the 21st Century™: A New Program for High School Students Offered by the Go Green Initiative

## Background

The Local Leaders of the 21st Century™ is a new program for high school students through the Go Green Initiative (GGI). Thanks to initial funding from Pleasanton Garbage Service and the City of Pleasanton, the pilot phase began at Amador in January 2016. The program is designed to help students understand how local public policy and industry work together to implement and maintain the following critical community systems: Energy, Waste, Water and Food.

Students hold town hall meetings with local public and industry officials to understand how these systems work in their own community. They visit critical infrastructure associated with these systems, and to express what they have learned in photos, videos, essays and speeches. Students can earn both scholarships and community service hours for graduation.

## Recent Achievements

On February 13, 2018, the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees adopted an Integrated Waste Management policy. The policy is designed to bring Pleasanton schools in compliance with applicable state laws that require recycling and organics separation.

Amador students in the Local Leaders of the 21st Century™ club spoke at numerous school board meetings and worked with district staff to help bring the policy to the board. They are currently working on plans to implement the policy district-wide. To date the students have:

- Conducted two creek cleanups of the Arroyo Del Valle
- Written grants to PPIE, Amador PTSA and the Altamont Education Advisory Board for funds to buy basic recycling and composting bins
- Worked alongside the Alameda County Waste Management Authority Schools team to conduct a waste audit of the lunch waste at Pleasanton's largest school: Amador
- Held town hall meetings with subject matter experts on Food Waste Reduction in Schools
- Met with City and School District leaders to plan comprehensive community outreach projects on recycling, composting and waste reduction in schools, businesses and homes
- Developed plans to work with elementary schools to help younger students learn about reducing their contributions to the local landfill

The Go Green Initiative is actively raising funds to hire more Pleasanton students this summer, and to award scholarships for high school seniors. If you are interested in supporting this opportunity, please call: **(925) 289-0145** or email [info@gogreeninitiative.org](mailto:info@gogreeninitiative.org).



Waste Audit



Creek Clean Up Day

A graphic with a yellow background. On the left, there are two artichokes. In the center, a speech bubble contains the text "IT'S BACK TO THE FARM FOR YOU, OLD TIMER." On the right, a green recycling bin is overflowing with various food scraps and organic waste, including fruit, vegetables, and meat. At the bottom, a green arrow points to the right with the text "COMPLETE THE CYCLE, RECYCLE YOUR FOOD SCRAPS. WWW.STOPWASTE.ORG".

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