

CONSERVATION CORNER

Let it Grow

Organic recycling, the practice of properly disposing of food scraps and green waste, is the biggest single improvement in recycling that La Verne residents can make. Currently La Verne households recycle about 51% of their waste stream. Increasing organic recycling by residents and businesses will go a long way towards reaching California's 75% recycling goal. It is important to remember that food scraps, leaves, grass, prunings, trimmings, and branches can be reused by recycling. Food scraps and green waste account for 40% of what is typically sent to landfills instead of creating compost and mulch. Diverting organics from landfills for processing reduces landfill emissions. The compost and mulch produces sustainable products that contribute to soil health, plant nutrition, carbon storage, and water conservation. So, remember to put your food scraps and green waste in the green cart at your curb.

Businesses statewide account for about half the solid waste produced and about 75% of that is recyclable. La Verne businesses currently recycle about 4% of their waste stream on average, but can make significant improvements in organic, paper, metal, and plastic recycling. Starting earlier this year programs for businesses to recycle organic and other commercial recyclables (paper, metal, plastic) expanded. As of April 1, business producers of 8 cubic yards of organics per week or 4 cubic yards of commercial recyclables per week should begin taking advantage of these programs. Over the coming years recycling will gradually be regulated for smaller producers, as well. Businesses like grocery stores, restaurants, and large offices tend to produce significant volumes of recyclables like food scraps and paper. Disposing of recyclables properly has the potential to save businesses money due to the lower per cubic yard disposal rates of organic and commercial recyclables. Capturing these waste streams in a recycling program will increase the sustainability of La Verne and decrease manufacturing costs through reusing products instead of creating new ones. The cost of transporting and storing trash at landfills will also be reduced by moving these recyclables out of landfills to reuse. As recycling regulations increase, commend businesses which quickly adopt avenues to reuse their organics, paper, metals, and plastics.

Water Conservation at the Fresh Farmer's Market

Join the City of La Verne at our booth at the La Verne Fresh Farmer's Market on D St and Bonita Ave on 5/21/16 for FREE water conservation giveaways. Ask questions about our environmental programs or just enjoy the local offerings. La Verne will promote water conservation and organic recycling and have plenty of information about everything else we do for the environment. The La Verne Fresh Farmer's Market features farm-fresh produce, specialty foods, and creations from local artists.

