# **MSS CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY**

#### SUNDAY, SEPT. 29, 2024 Rain<sup>on</sup>, Shine **535 JACOBY STREET, SAN RAFAEL**

## WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

#### JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN!

Say NO to plastic!

At our Customer Appreciation Day event, we invite you to explore our recycling facility to discover what happens to your trash, compostables, and recycling after we collect it. Get involved with hands-on activities, tours, and classes that showcase how your everyday efforts make a big impact on our environment.

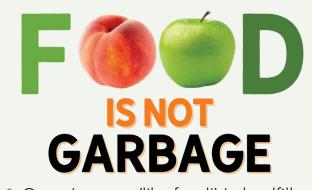


#### **CAN'T MAKE IT?**

No worries! You can schedule a group tour or explore our facility with a virtual tour online.



marinsanitaryservice.com/tours





## **FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING**

Paper documents only, one (1) banker's box or grocery bag limit per customer.





## **FREE COMPOST GIVEAWAY**

Get 64 gallons of compost; bring your own container or a burlap sack will be provided. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.



#### **GREEN CART COMPOSTING CLASS**

Come learn why food is not trash and how compost works!



GET A FREE KITCHEN COMPOST PAIL.

#### **RECYCLING FACILITY TOUR**

Come see our industry-leading recycling technology. Bring the whole family! **60-MINUTE TOUR.** 



to 2<sup>pm</sup>

#### **MEET YOUR COMMUNITY**

We are honored to partner with:

- Children 4 Change
- Downtown Streets Team
- Firesafe Marin

PLUS, OTHER PARTNERS WILL BE TABLING! COME LEARN MORE!

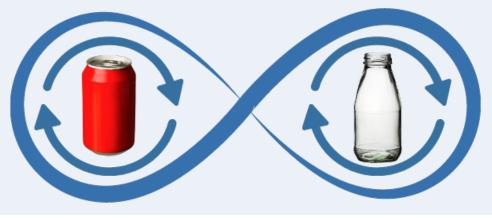
## **SMALL STEPS, BIG IMPACT! CHOOSE ALUMINUM OR GLASS**

Organic waste (like food!) in landfills decomposes anaerobically, producing methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

## 回溯回 **COMPOST: IT'S THE LAW!** KEEP COMPOSTING MARIN! Food scraps AREN'T garbage! Compost usi

You don't need to be perfect to make a positive impact on the environment! Small, simple choices in your daily routine can add up to a big difference.

- Aluminum and glass can be recycled endlessly without losing quality, reducing the need for new raw materials and supporting a circular economy.
- Manufacturing disposable cups requires energy, water, and raw materials that could be saved by using a durable, reusable alternative.





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#### **DO YOU HAVE SEPARATION ANXIETY?**







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#### **KEEP OUR HARD WORKING SORTERS SAFE!**

BATTERIES DO NOT GO IN THE GARBAGE! Please place clear or electrical tape on both ends of your spent batteries and drop them off at The Marin Household Hazardous Waste Facility or visit **ZeroWasteMarin.org** to find a local drop off location.



## THANK THE SORTERS

#### By Renée Goddard

Reducing what we purchase and pausing to re-think what we put in our recycling carts is where we all have the opportunity to do our part. From the moment the recycling truck dumps the two separate recycling streams, the skillful MSS Sorters take over.

The heroic workers on the sorting line have a magic blend of both SAVVY & SAFETY, which places MSS at the top of the game in the resource recovery world.

## MSS COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



**Make It Home** is a non-profit furniture bank dedicated to providing gently used furniture and household goods to newly-housed foster kids, formerly homeless families, and individuals moving into empty apartments. From their warehouses in San Rafael and the East Bay, Make it Home serves all Bay Area Counties.

We proudly support their mission to create warm, welcoming homes for those in need and their dedication to reducing waste by reusing furnishings that might otherwise end up in landfill.

You can help support Make it Home by donating money, time, and quality, gently-used furniture.

#### Learn more at: MakeltHomeBayArea.org



I spent the morning with Miguel on the sorting line marveling at the speed and accuracy of the team who start sorting our recyclables at 4am Monday-Friday. When most of us are still sound asleep, the Sorters are already gloves on, deep into the contents of the recycling carts we leave on the curb for emptying.

Miguel has worked for the Recycling Center for 34 years and has experienced first-hand the proliferation of plastics that have substantially increased the Sorters workload. Our choices directly affect the people on the sorting line too!

As a member of the Outreach Team, I educate people every day about sorting recyclables and what can and can't be recycled and composted. I have a strange obsession with helping people suffering from "separation anxiety" rummaging through their bags to find their glasses and holding up plastic containers to the light searching for chasing arrows and numbers which lead them no closer to knowing which bin to choose. Items like Starbuck's cups or flimsy plastic clamshells that organic strawberries are sold in are causing massive confusion for the everyday coffee drinker and organic strawberry eater.

Today I realized that it is the people on the sorting line who are far and away the experts when it comes to sorting. They do it at full speed with ambidexterity, accuracy, and comradery, like jugglers with a steady stream of additional balls being thrown into the mix.

With my leather work gloves, mask and protective eye gear, I stepped in to help. It was immediately clear that living in the fast-sorting lane, belly up to the belts which travel an average of eight miles per hour, requires keen hand eye coordination. My eyes danced for three hours as the mixed-up material stream coursed down the belt, and I tried to copy the masterful way they managed to sift through it and direct it down the proper chute.

Miguel warned me to be on the look-out for any hazardous waste coming down the belt, namely syringes and batteries. When a lithium-ion battery is crushed, it can spark and ignite fires. Sparks which ignite fires in a "house of paper" is increasingly common and extremely dangerous.

Now when I go to toss a plastic container, wishing it to be recyclable, I pause before I toss. I see the hands and hearts of the hard-working people who touch every piece of wish-cycling that I drop in my cart. When in doubt, throw it out. What we do matters!

It is almost impossible to keep up with the vast array of different plastic resins and mixed material products produced, consumed, and disposed of. It is because of Jose Luis, Miguel, Pedro, and the diligent team of Sorters that we can close the recycling loop and keep our precious resources out of the landfill. Not only do our Sorters keep up, but they keep us one-step ahead of the game.