



A TRIBUTE TO JOE JR.

SPRING 2025



IN MEMORY OF JOE GARBARINO JR. MARIN'S PASSIONATE SCAVENGER

Joe Garbarino Jr., owner of Marin Sanitary Service and founder of the Marin Recycling and Resource Recovery Association passed away in December of 2024 at the age of 91.

Joe was a visionary who transformed waste management in Marin County, pioneering the first county-wide curbside recycling program and creating innovative solutions that will protect our environment for generations. He dedicated his life to conserving resources, reducing greenhouse gases, and supporting his community with remarkable passion and dedication.

Joe didn't just manage waste – he challenged us to rethink our relationship with consumption, waste, and our responsibility to future generations.

“We deeply feel the loss of my Dad and hero Joe, and want to assure our customers and community that the values and commitment he instilled remain at the heart of our company.”

Patty Garbarino, President of Marin Sanitary Service

“Do yourself and your grandkids a favor: **say no to plastic!**”

Joe Garbarino Jr.



JOE'S SIMPLE YET ENDURING ADVICE

Think beyond immediate convenience and consider the long-term environmental impact of our choices.

A RESPECTED TRAILBLAZER

Joe was honored with many awards and distinctions throughout his career—here are just a few.



John Moscone Award (1994) – Recognized for innovations in waste management.



Featured in National Geographic – Highlighted twice for his work in resource recovery.



Hall of Fame Inductee (2014) – Honored by the National Waste & Recycling Association.



Award-Winning Company – “Best Curbside Recycling Program in California” and “Outstanding Solid Waste Recovery Program in California” by the California Resource Recovery Association.

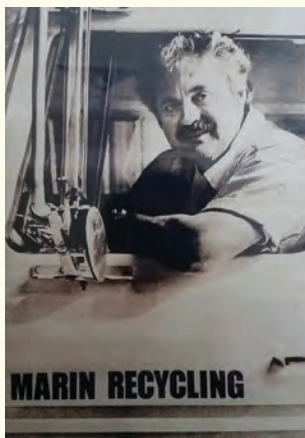
THE CASTLE OF CRUD: A THOUGHT-PROVOKING STATEMENT ON PLASTIC WASTE

In 1992, Joe constructed what he called the “Marin Museum of Non-Recyclable Plastic” – or the “Castle of Crud.” This massive installation was built from 50 compressed plastic bag bales, each weighing 1,400 tons, creating a powerful visual representation of our single-use plastic items problem.



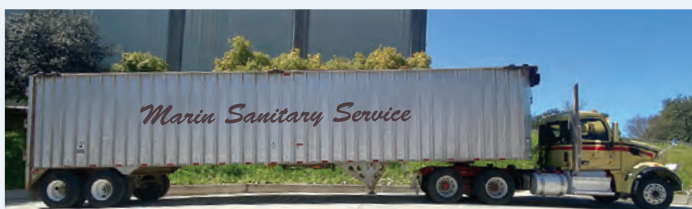
A LIFETIME OF ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

Joe was never one to mince words about waste. “It’s a sin to waste,” he would declare, a principle that guided his entire career. In a 1993 newsletter, he warned that “the plastic industry is pushing plastics right down our throats” – a statement that feels prophetic in our current era of pervasive microplastics.



THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING & COMPOSTING!

In 2024, your commitment to composting and recycling kept the equivalent of **2,350 semi-trucks of waste out of** Redwood Landfill in Novato.



**2,350 SEMI-TRUCKS OF WASTE
DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL!**

RECYCLING NEWSFLASH!

We now accept #1 PET plastic clamshell containers for recycling, as well as bottles.

Please make sure they are empty, clean, and marked with a #1.



**PLASTIC
CLAMSHELL
CONTAINERS**

RECYCLABLE
CLEAN PAPER

BOTTLES, CANS,
JUGS, TUBS



EXAMPLES OF #1 PET PLASTIC CLAMSHELL CONTAINERS



ONLY

- Clamshell to-go food containers
- Berry and salad containers
- Square plastic tubs



EVEN THOUGH WE NOW ACCEPT IT — ALWAYS — BETTER TO REJECT IT!

Most plastic comes from natural gas and crude oil. For over 30 years, Joe and others have fought against the plastics industry. While some plastic packaging is recycled, it's rarely turned back into new packaging. Instead, it becomes products like clothing, parking lot bumpers, or plastic lumber—before eventually ending up in a landfill. This does little to reduce the demand for virgin plastic.

CHOOSE REUSABLES

Metal and glass containers, which can be recycled infinitely, or better yet, reusable containers, remain the most environmentally friendly choices.





Use código QR para
leer en español.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN RAFAEL, CA
PERMIT NO. 87



PLEASE RECYCLE ME!

PRINTED ON 100% POST-CONSUMER CONTENT PAPER

FOOD IS NOT GARBAGE: FEED PEOPLE NOT LANDFILLS!

Households generate 35% of all food waste—more than any other sector—with roughly one-third of the world's food never eaten. When organic waste ends up in landfills, it breaks down without oxygen and produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. Landfills are the third largest generator of methane emissions in California.

COMPOST:
HERE'S WHAT YOU
NEED TO KNOW



GOOD NEWS

Small actions like composting and meal planning can have as great or greater an impact on reducing emissions than electric vehicles, recycling, and reforestation can!

Food scraps
AREN'T garbage!
Compost us!



NATIONWIDE ACTION

**12
STATES**

Including California have banned or restricted food going to landfills, leading the charge in waste reduction.

EDIBLE FOOD RESCUE

In 2024, the state of California awarded grants of \$220,500 to help rescue edible food in Marin County, keeping 738 tons out of the landfill. That equates to the weight of about 85 school buses!



COMPOST: IT'S THE LAW!

Since 2022, California law SB 1383 requires all of us at home, and all businesses to separate food waste, yard waste, and paper separately from all other waste to make sure it doesn't go to landfill.



COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC? THINK AGAIN.



Over 75% of commercial compost facilities in California **do not accept any compostable or bio-degradable plastics**, including WM EarthCare™ where we take your compostables. A 2023 survey found that only 4 out of 24 facilities accept "compostable" plastic and even they treat these items as contamination and remove them as trash.

Bottom line: unfortunately, compostable plastics must go in the trash.



COMPOSTABLES



YES!
USE PAPER
BAGS

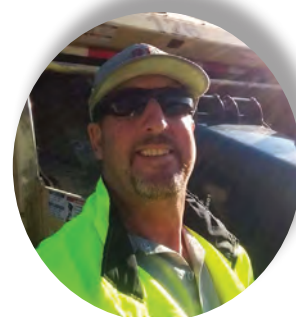


NO!
"COMPOSTABLE"
PLASTIC



KEEP COMPOSTING MARIN!

Congratulations AJ PETUYA 2025 DRIVER OF THE YEAR



For over 20 years, A.J. Petuya has been a cornerstone of Marin Sanitary Service, training 30 drivers while maintaining a perfect safety record on

one of the company's most challenging routes. Known for his big heart, A.J. delights local kids by gifting toy garbage trucks on their birthdays. His positive attitude and dedication have now earned him a nomination for the 2025 National Waste & Recycling Association Driver of the Year Award.

THANKS, A.J., FOR MAKING OUR
COMMUNITY BRIGHTER!