Learn about organics mandates
COMING FOR YOUR BUSINESS
January 1, 2019

It's what you Do With It when you're Done With It

Learn why ORGANICS recycling is just the latest way Yolo County is making sure our community doesn't "waste" our waste

Shawn Hooker, Master Roaster of La Tourangelle, says being a sustainable miller is central to the company's business model.
PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF

Making Good Stuff Better

Woodland oil producer La Tourangelle turns its waste into cattle feed

BY RODNEY OROSCO

What if there was a way to not just dispose of organic waste, but to use waste to foster soil regeneration and sustainable farming practices.

For specialty oil maker La Tourangelle, doing that is trés facil — very easy.

Founded in the French town of Saumur, the now Berkeley-based company mills its oil in the small Yolo County town of Woodland. That the company uses an old-world technique to make its wide assortment of award-winning artisanal nut oils is only half of their success story. The company also goes out of its way to contract with sustainable nut growers and then sells their nut by-product to ranchers as cattle feed.

"We choose suppliers and growers who share our values and commitment to sustainable agriculture," said La Tourangelle CEO Matthieu Kohlmeyer.

The company is so committed to sustainable practices it has even given a name to what it does: a virtuous circle.

"To put it simply," Kohlmeyer explained, "creating social value drives business value, and vice versa." In other words, being good to the environment is good for business.

The company sources 100 percent of its walnuts from California growers and it uses walnuts from farmers who are members of the California Walnut Board.

> **"Doing our part to help minimize waste and contribute to the local community is good business and good for the planet."**
>
> **Matthieu Kohlmeyer**
> CEO, La Tourangelle

The oil company has to press a lot of nuts to produce its oil. The shells and solids that are leftover would otherwise go into a landfill.

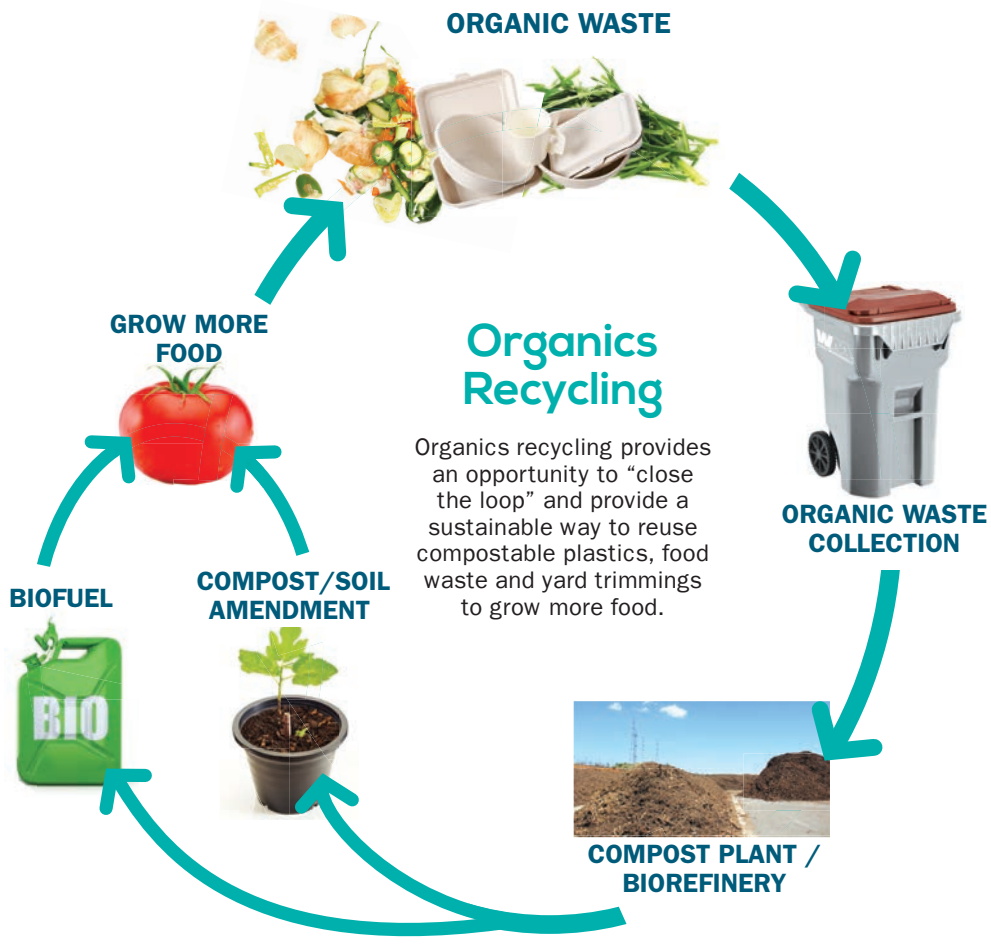
Instead, that nut by-product is being put to use — as food.

"The by-products from pressing are sold to local farmers to be used as cattle feed," Kohlmeyer said.

In 2017, that amounted to almost 1 million pounds of pressed nut cakes going to fatten up local cows — which meant almost 1 million pounds not going to the landfill.

"Staying true to our values and doing our part to help minimize waste and contribute to the local community is good business and good for the planet," Kohlmeyer said.

Closing the Loop



Keeping Yolo County Green

New organic recycling programs aim to reduce pollution and extend landfill usability

BY ANNE STOKES

California is taking bold steps to reduce both harmful greenhouse gas emissions and its reliance on ever-dwindling landfill space. Regulations currently in effect require local jurisdictions to implement organic waste recycling programs for businesses and residents to use. By 2025, the goal is to reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfills by 75 percent statewide.

Yolo County is doing its part to meet that goal. In addition to providing carts for general recycling — plastic, paper, cardboard, metal and glass — residents in certain areas of the county can also recycle their food and green waste. Organic material is either turned into compost or used in Yolo County Central Landfill's pilot anaerobic composting program which turns greenhouse gas emissions into a renewable source of biofuel.

"Organics programs like this will save landfill space, which will ultimately save ratepayers and help the environment."

Marissa Juhler
Waste Reduction and Sustainability Manager,
Yolo County Central Landfill

"Organics programs like this will save landfill space, which will ultimately save ratepayers and help the environment," said Marissa Juhler, waste reduction and sustainability manager with Yolo County Integrated Waste Management Division. "Why bury something that can be repurposed or given new life, even if it's a banana peel that's turned into compost or a milk jug that is turned into plastic bags? It's [about] … being more responsible for our waste, taking ownership in what we purchase, what we consume and what we do with that end product."

According to Juhler, organic waste makes up a third of all material in California landfills. She pointed out that it makes both environmental and economic sense to preserve landfill space as much as possible. Purchasing and establishing new landfill property is an expensive endeavor that will pass costs onto ratepayers. Until recently, the landfill was expected to be full by 2081. But with the new programs, landfill space should last an additional 43 years.

"By adding recycling and composting programs, we can go from the year 2081 all the way to the year 2124," she said. "That means for at least this generation, and the next, and the next after that, we're going to have enough space here."

When liquids and food waste are mixed with recyclables, or when recyclable materials are improperly sorted, it causes contamination, which can ruin whole loads of materials that are then sent to the landfill instead of being recycled. That's why Yolo County is looking to its residents to keep its recyclables clean by properly separating recyclables.

Recycling cart (blue lid)

WHAT GOES IN:
- Paper (magazine, newspapers, junk mail and cardboard)
- Glass bottles and jars
- Rigid plastics (soda bottles, clam shell to-go containers and milk jugs)
- Metals (aluminum, tin cans and small scrap metal)

KEEP OUT:
Food-soiled paper products like used paper towels or greasy pizza boxes, Styrofoam, film plastics like plastic bags, plastic utensils or disposable coffee cups (which could be lined with plastic).

Organics cart (brown lid)

WHAT GOES IN:
- Food waste, including meat, dairy, fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds and filters
- Food contaminated paper like plates, napkins, pizza boxes
- Yard waste like lawn clippings, cut flowers and small tree limbs

KEEP OUT:
Disposable coffee cups, foil-lined paper (like hot dog wrappers), plastics, metal, dirt, rocks, diapers, animal waste, palm fronds or cactus material.

Trash cart (gray lid)

WHAT GOES IN:
- Film plastic bags (zip tie, grocery store bags)
- Pet waste
- Items made of multiple materials (like foil-lined paper) or aseptic containers (self-stable milks and juice boxes)

KEEP OUT:
Household hazardous waste (electronics, batteries, florescent bulbs or propane tanks), medical sharps (needles). *For hazardous waste disposal options, see page 6.*

Waste Less at Work

Organic Waste Program helps CalSTRS keep 95 percent of its waste out of the landfill

BY RODNEY OROSCO

Composting food scraps is just one way CalSTRS helps close the loop.
PHOTO BY MELISSA UROFF

Visitors to the CalSTRS building in West Sacramento can find the agency's commitment to sustainability near the front door: It's right there in the building's garden.

"The on-site garden is part of our commitment to creating a sustainable workplace," explained Madeline O'Connell, environmental sustainability specialist at the CalSTRS building.

What is grown in the urban garden makes its way into the building's cafe and into the employees' lunches. Even the forks are reused.

"We use reusable dining ware in the cafe," O'Connell said. "And, there are incentives for employees bringing reusable cups and mugs."

Whatever food or waste that is leftover, is dropped in its proper place — three bins help employees sort food, mixed recyclables and landfill items.

The food scraps are sent to an off-site anaerobic digester to make the leftovers into compost.

What this attention to sustainable detail means — 95 percent of the agency's monthly waste is diverted from the landfill.

"Our waste diversion program considers all the points of waste generation within our facility," O'Connell added. This means the agency sources recycled office supplies and recycles all manner of paper (placed in the appropriate bin, of course) Even the building's landscape is environmentally sustainable, with drought-tolerant and native plants.

However, what good is a sustainability program in such a large agency without education? That is where the Green Rangers swoop in.

Although they don't wear capes, these "recycling heroes" provide hands-on learning opportunities to new and veteran employees, O'Connell explained.

"The Green Rangers is an employee-led group that provides ongoing sustainability education," O'Connell said.

The agency's efforts have not gone unnoticed. CalSTRS received a Gold-level TRUE Zero Waste certification from Green Business Certification, Inc., an organization that provides third-party credentialing and verification to certify sustainability commitment.

> **"Our waste diversion program considers all the points of waste generation within our facility."**
>
> **Madeline O'Connell**
> Environmental Sustainability Specialist, CalSTRS

Businesses Can Go Organic

Recycling food and other organic waste produced at businesses can benefit the environment and the bottom line. It's also the law.

AB 1826, which was signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2014, created a timeline for businesses and multi-family dwellings to compost organic waste.

Now: Businesses that produce at least 4 cubic yards of food waste per week **are required to have an organics waste collection program.** Local jurisdictions are required to have a program in place, conduct outreach and education programs, and identify businesses that are not composting.

Jan. 1, 2019: Businesses that have at least 4 cubic yards of *any* commercial solid waste per week must have an organics waste collection program.

Yolo County: *Businesses can contact Yolo County's Recycling staff at 530-666-8856 to set up a FREE waste audit, which will help determine ways to comply with the new law.*

West Sacramento: *Businesses can call the City of West Sacramento at 916-617-4590 to request a FREE waste audit.*

CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO

YOLO COUNTY RECYCLES

Make Your Home Greener

Clarksburg pilot program sets the stage for state's new organic recycling requirements

BY ANNE STOKES

Clarksburg Citizens' Advisory Committee member Amanda Beck's work with Yolo County's Integrated Waste Management Division has resulted in a community-wide organic recycling program pilot, which distributed countertop food waste bins (seen here) to every household in Clarksburg.
PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

The small town of Clarksburg, located on the banks of the Sacramento River in the southeastern corner of Yolo County, is best known for its wineries and serene delta views. But now it's becoming known for being among the first communities to have a residential organic waste collection program, which collects yard clippings and food scraps to turn them into compost and energy.

One of the residents who helped make that program possible is Amanda Beck. She grew up in Clarksburg and, after moving away to the Bay Area for a time, she returned to her hometown to raise her family.

While living in Oakland, Beck enjoyed the benefits of the city's organic recycling and composting programs. When she moved back to Clarksburg in 2012, she was dismayed to find no such services in her rural hometown.

In 2013, Beck was appointed to the Clarksburg Citizens' Advisory Committee and successfully lobbied to implement green waste management into the community's Specific Plan. Working with Yolo County's Integrated Waste Management Division, Clarksburg was selected for an organic waste collection pilot program in 2016. All 152 households were provided countertop bins, curbside bins, compostable bags and semimonthly collection of food scraps, yard clippings and other organic waste.

Clarksburg is just one Yolo County community to implement a residential organic waste collection program. West Sacramento also offers curbside collection of organic waste, including food waste. These communities have created programs well *ahead* of upcoming state regulations. Senate Bill 1383 will soon require jurisdictions to have residential organic waste collection programs. Today, Clarksburg and West Sacramento residents are already handling their organic material in a way that keeps them out of the trash and the landfill.

Using the curbsite organics cart is much easier than composting in your own backyard, she said.

Even though she and many of her neighbors have backyard compost piles, Beck said their green bins still get plenty of use.

According to a survey conducted by UC Davis students working with the Yolo County Central Landfill, Clarksburg residents are generally happy with their organic recycling service: 88 percent of households survey supported the program and 68 percent of them were able to downsize their existing trash carts and reduce their trash bill. The program's success has prompted Yolo County to extend the program through June 2019, with the possibility of permanent implementation.

> **"It's a cycle of burying your issues! We've got to find a way to divert as much as you can so it can be recycled [and] reused."**
>
> **Amanda Beck**
> Clarksburg Citizens' Advisory, Committee member

"It's a cycle of burying your issues! We've got to find a way to divert as much as you can so it can be recycled [and] reused," Beck says. "If we continue to go down this route of … filling up landfills, we're just going to have to open more and more of them."

Beck says she's passionate about environmental issues such as this because they not only impact her community today, but also the community her children will inherit in the future.

"To me, it's not only 'right now' in our community," she says. "It's teaching the younger part of our community how to manage so that we don't continuously create this problem of how we manage waste."

'Mulch' ado about organic waste

In Yolo County, organic waste is put to good use. In certain areas of the county, green waste is diverted from landfills and used to create compost and renewable energy in the form of biofuel. Residents and businesses can ensure the program's success by keeping organic materials, recyclables and trash separated.

WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR ORGANIC RECYCLE BIN

- Any food scraps, for example fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, coffee grounds and filters
- Yard waste including lawn clippings
- Food-soiled paper products such as napkins, paper plates, tissues or pizza boxes

WHAT NOT TO PUT IN YOUR ORGANIC RECYCLE BIN

- Plastic items (like disposable eating utensils and straws)
- Metal
- Glass
- Liquid
- Painted or stained wood
- Pet waste
- Palm fronds and cacti
- Paper lined with foil or plastic

Check with your waste hauler for more information on what organic waste is acceptable and pick-up schedules.

Top10 Household Hazardous Waste Items

When you're done with it, take these hazardous items to the appropriate facilities listed below. It's not just the right thing to do for Yolo County, it's the LAW!

1 Pharmaceuticals

Dispose of unwanted, unused or expired prescription and non-prescription medications by taking them to a designated medication disposal site. DON'T FLUSH!

West Sacramento Police Department
550 Jefferson Blvd., West Sacramento
Monroe Detention Center
140 Tony Diaz Drive, Woodland
Davis Police Department
2600 Fifth St., Davis
Winters Police Department
702 Main St., Winters
Woodland Police Department
1000 Lincoln Ave., Lincoln

2 Sharps

Used needles and blood-testing devices (those used to check blood sugar levels) can transmit disease and need special disposal. They should be collected in a rigid container (such as a bleach bottle) with the word "sharps" written on the container. Yolo County offers free home pickup every Saturday by appointment. Call 530-666-8856 to schedule an appointment. Or, drop them off free of charge at:

Yolo County Central Landfill - Hazardous waste drop-off
44090 County Road 28H, Woodland
Open Fridays and Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

3 Motor oil

Recycling motor oil is not only environmentally responsible, it is also the law. The County offers free oil recycling and oil filter recycling bags for proper disposal of oil filters at these locations:

Esparto Transfer Station
27075 County Road 19A, Esparto
Wednesday and Saturday
Yolo County Central Landfill - Hazardous waste drop-off
44090 County Road 28H, Woodland
Every day

4 Paint

When dropping off unwanted paint to be disposed of at a retail store, the can must have the original label, be sealed and the paint must be oil, latex or acrylic. Unlabeled, unreadable, corroded cans need to be taken to the Yolo County Landfill. Take paint to:

Kelly Moore
831 Harbor Blvd., West Sacramento
Kelly Moore
538 N. East St. A, Woodland
Sherwin-Williams
1392 E. Main St. A, Woodland
Yolo County Central Landfill - Hazardous waste drop-off
44090 County Road 28H Woodland

5 Fluorescent light bulbs

It is against the law to toss these bulbs in the trash as they contain mercury. Take them to:

Yolo County Central Landfill - Hazardous waste drop-off
44090 County Road 28H, Woodland

6 Batteries

Considered hazardous and containing heavy materials, batteries must be disposed of properly. It is against the law to throw them in the trash.
Dispose of them at the following locations:

Esparto Convenience Store
27075 County Road 19A, Esparto
Yolo County Library —Yolo
37750 Sacramento St.
Yolo County Library — Clarksburg
52915 Netherlands Roadhouse
Yolo County Library — Knights Landing
42351 Third St.
Yolo County Central Landfill - Hazardous waste drop-off
44090 County Road 28H, Woodland

7 Electronics

Also known as e-waste, it is against the law to throw these items in the trash. Toxic chemicals in many of these items can contaminate our environment.

Yolo County Central Landfill - Hazardous waste drop-off
44090 County Road 28H, Woodland

8 Agricultural Pesticide

Yolo County sponsors a triple-rinse agricultural pesticide program. Growers can contact the County Agricultural Department at 530-666-8140 for a free onsite inspection of containers. Once inspected, containers may be hauled to the landfill for free recycling EVERY FRIDAY from 7:30-3:30 p.m.

9 Gas Cylinders

"Empty" cylinders often contain a small amount of gas that can pose an incredible danger. Refillable containers are your best, safest, bet. The landfill will accept helium tanks, fire extinguishers and propane tanks free of charge. For other cylinders, call 530-666-8856.

Yolo County Central Landfill - Hazardous waste drop-off
44090 County Road 28H, Woodland

To find reusable propane cylinder retailers, visit www.refuelyourfun.org.

10 Mattresses/Box Springs

While not actually hazardous, these items are landfill hogs: They take up huge amounts of space. And, they are *very* recyclable — 85 percent of mattress parts can be recycled. They can be recycled by county residents free of charge at:

Yolo County Central Landfill - Hazardous waste drop-off
44090 County Road 28H, Woodland

Mattress retailers: All mattress retailers are required to remove old mattresses when delivering a new one.

These services are available to residents FREE at the county landfill.
Services are also available to businesses at the county landfill, however fees may apply.

Yolo County Division of Integrated Waste Management Dr. Ramin Yazdani shows where anaerobic digester cells are buried at the Yolo County Landfill. When organic waste inside the cells decomposes, it releases methane which is captured for energy. The remaining organic matter is turned into compost.
PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

A Win-Win Solution

Yolo County is turning organic waste into treasure

BY ANNE STOKES

Yolo County has a solution to organic waste overloading our landfills. The solution is composting — anaerobic composting, to be precise. Not only does it save space, but it's a renewable energy source and creates a healthier environment while off-setting county costs. And the county has implemented this program well before the state's diversion deadline in 2020.

Through anaerobic composting, Yolo County will soon be turning its residents' banana peels, yard clippings and leftover food into compost and energy. While the process involves a lot more than simple compost piles you'd find in many backyards, both the short- and long-term benefits are substantial.

"You're diverting material that would otherwise be stored in the landfill and never be used," said program creator Dr. Ramin Yazdani, director of the Yolo County Division of Integrated Waste Management. "Annually we landfill somewhere around 180,000 tons. So if you divert that, [we] are extending the life of the landfill and [we're] producing beneficial use for that material."

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas emitted by decomposing organic waste. But Yolo County's anaerobic composting program captures and harnesses it as a renewable source of energy. Here's how it works:

1. **Green and food waste are stored in sealed cells in** the ground for five months. Methane is collected and used to power generators that create electricity.
2. **Liquid and air is then added** to further break down organic materials.
3. **Compost is excavated** and the cell is ready to be reused for the next load of organic material.
4. **Methane-produced power** is sold to Sacramento Municipal Utility District and compost is sold for agricultural uses, reducing nitrate pollution caused by artificial fertilizers.

> **"[We] are extending the life of the landfill and [we're] producing beneficial use for that material."**
>
> **Dr. Ramin Yazdani**
> Director of the Yolo County Division of Integrated Waste Management

Yolo County's seven anaerobic compost cells — 150 by 150 foot plots approximately 15 to 20 feet deep — can handle about 50,000 tons annually, more than the 30,000 tons of organic waste Yolo County produces. And there is room for expansion, should surrounding counties and cities need such services. Officials hope to have it running by January 2019.

Dr. Yazdani said that the current system took years of research and development, but he hopes the concept will be implemented throughout the state. While there are upfront costs, the program will save ratepayers — as well as the environment — in the long run.

Why? Because constructing new landfills is expensive. Space is limited and the costs to ensure landfills don't pollute the environment are high.

"If you don't have a landfill, you don't have those costs," Yazdani said. "You [can] put [those savings] toward these other things [like] building an organics program has these other benefits."

Shop the Big Blue Barn and save two ways!

Looking for a classic Schwinn bike? Need a roll-top desk for your home office? Want to create your own home gym, complete with treadmill, weights and an elliptical machine? Check out the ever-changing inventory at Yolo County's Big Blue Recycling Barn. During monthly shopping events, visitors can find usable goods like these that are repurposed and sold for a *fraction* of retail prices, saving you money and also saving space in the landfill.

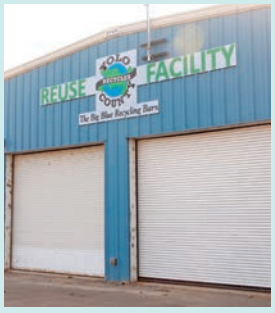
Remodeling your house and don't know what to do with perfectly good lumber, doors and windows? Need to clean out the garage, but don't want things to end up in the landfill? Get rid of your unwanted items by dropping them off at The Big Blue Recycling Barn (textiles, such as clothing, upholstered furniture or pillows are not accepted).

Drop off hours:

- Monday through Saturday, 6:30 a.m. through 4 p.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (regular landfill hours)

Upcoming shop events:

- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  Friday, Oct. 5 through Sunday, Oct. 7
- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  Friday, Nov. 30 through Sunday, Dec. 2



The Big Blue Recycling Barn is located at the Yolo County Central Landfill, 44090 County Road 28H in Woodland. For more information, visit www.yolocounty.org or call 530-666-8813.

Recycling Works Wonders

From the easy and proper recycling of motor oil to the development of programs to help businesses compost organic waste, Yolo County residents are leading the way in putting waste in its place.

Through ongoing outreach, the Yolo County Integrated Waste Management Division and the City of West Sacramento educates about proper recycling and waste disposal — for example, did you know it is illegal to throw batteries in the trash?

But, the commitment to keeping the environment safe does not stop at educating county residents. The county landfill accepts a wide assortment of household hazardous waste free of charge.

Keeping dangerous items out of the landfill and keeping our environment safe is all about recycling right.

take me with you

Resource Guide West Sac

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Residents are eligible for two "At Your Door" hazardous waste pick up appointments each year (between July 1 and June 30). To schedule an appointment, call 800-449-7587. For more information, visit the website at wmatyourdoor.com.

Yolo County Central Landfill **FREE** HHW drop-off days are Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

FREE BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

Residents are eligible for two bulky waste appointments a year (between July 1 and June 30). Items include: furniture, tires, mattresses and large appliances. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 866-844-1508. FREE mattress recycling is also available at the Yolo County Central Landfill.

CURBSIDE USED OIL AND USED FILTER COLLECTION

Residents may recycle up to two gallons of used oil each month. Residents must use a WM provided oil container. Call WM at 866-844-1508 to request a used oil collection container and filter bag.

BUSINESSES!
Contact the City of West Sacramento recycling staff at 916-617-4590.

take me with you

Resource Guide Yolo

YOLO COUNTY — ESPARTO RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATION

Recycle glass, plastics, mixed paper, metals, used oil and filters, cardboard and e-waste, for **FREE**. There is a fee for solid waste.
27075 County Road 19A Esparto
Hours: Wednesday & Saturday
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Phone: 530-787-3387
Website: yolocounty.org

YOLO COUNTY LANDFILL

Address: 44090 County Road 28H
Woodland, CA
Phone: 530-666-8852
Landfill Hours: Monday-Saturday,
6:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sundays, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Household Hazardous Waste Hours:
Friday - Saturday, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Website: yolocounty.org

SENIORS (65+) or **DISABLED** County residents may call 530-666-8856 to schedule a free pick up of hazardous waste items.

BUSINESSES!
Contact Yolo County's Recycling Staff at (530) 666-8856 to set up a waste audit.

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