



## 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 led 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](http://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](http://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

**Garbage Carts** Please place your cart at the curb edge with *at least 3 feet of clearance* from other objects, including other carts, basketball hoops and motor vehicles. Make sure your cart lid is down completely. Thank you for helping us provide you with the best possible service. Together we can keep our neighborhoods safe and clean.

*Please — no dirt, rocks, batteries, fluorescent lights, sharps or overloading — lids must be closed to prevent spills.*



**Recycling Cart Acceptable List** 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 ♻️ through ♻️).

**Recycling Cart Non-Acceptable List** No plastic bags, wrapping film, wire and string, waxed paper containers, foam packaging, paper towels & napkins, food soiled paper & cardboard, aerosol cans and diapers.

**Greenwaste Cart 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.

**Greenwaste Cart Non-Acceptable List** No plastic bags, wrapping film, no household garbage. *No dirt or rocks. No overloading — lid must be closed to prevent spills.*

# 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



Waste Audit



Creek Clean Up Day

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).

PLEASE DETACH HERE AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT.



One stamp will be given for each 25 lbs. of recyclable material presented at the Buy Back Center. A total of 75 lbs. (3 stamps) of recyclable material must be presented during any given quarter to receive a credit. If you have an automated 96 gallon service, your quarterly credit will be \$3.51. If you have an automated 35 gallon service, your quarterly credit will be \$2.22.




To ensure proper credit, please fill out the information below:

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Pleasanton  
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