

Recycling
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Belmont tops at recycling

State's garbage penalties should miss residents

By Wes Bowers
Staff Reporter

Environmentalists have something to smile about in Belmont.

According to the county's new recycling website, recycleworks.com, Belmont is one of the top cities in the county in measuring recycling success.

In 1989, passage of California's AB 939 established the current organization, structure and mission of the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The purpose of creating the board was to direct attention to the increasing waste stream and decreasing landfill capacity, as well as to mandate a reduction of waste being disposed.

Jurisdictions were required to meet diversion goals of 25 percent in 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000.

Through 1998, Belmont residents and business recycled 48 percent of the city's waste stream, second only to Foster City's 50 percent.

According to facts and figures on the waste-management website, Belmont businesses disposed of 11,154 tons of waste last year. Fast-food stores disposed of 15.2 percent of that figure, while restaurants were second with 11.6 percent. Construction sites were third with 10.0 percent.

As for residential waste, 3,015 tons were disposed of last year. That included 443 tons of glass, 508 tons of metal, 972 tons of plastic and 492 tons of construction waste.

Residents disposed of 4,942 tons of organic waste, which included food, leaves, manure and textiles, 136 tons of mixed waste like ash, tires, solid sewage and industrial sludge, and 36 tons of hazardous household waste like paint, batteries and vehicle fluids.

Although results through 1999 have just been released, Assistant City Manager Mike Bridges said that he has checked with the county a number of times since the announcement to see Belmont's

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current status as a recycling town.

"I rechecked once and we were number one for a while, and I checked back again and we were back to number two," he said. "But it's safe to say we are one of the top cities from the county."

Bridges said that there were just two other cities from the county in the top group — Millbrae and Colma.

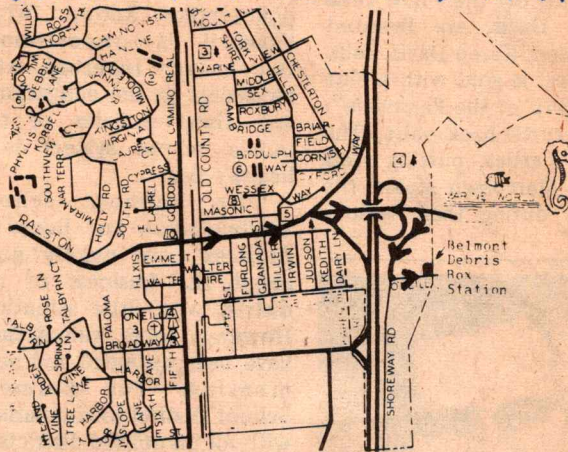
According to www.recycleworks.com, Millbrae was the top city in the county with a 52 percent waste diversion, and Colma was second with 51 percent. Foster City had dropped to just 37 percent.

Over the last decade, the cities and county of San Mateo have implemented a variety of programs to address their waste. This year, cities can be fined for not meeting their

diversion goals, but the board will take into consideration the good faith efforts that the cities make to achieve their diversions.

RecycleWorks.com is maintained by the county's recycling and composting program. If you can't find the answers you're looking for there, you can e-mail them at info@RecycleWorks.com or call their hotline at 1-888-442-2666.

It's Yours - Use It!
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BELMONT'S NEW DEBRIS DISPOSAL STATION has not yet achieved the status as a social gathering point that the old dump in Belmont used to have. The debris station is open every Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and all Belmont citizens are invited to come down and dispose of up to two cubic yards of garden cuttings, newspapers, etc. (no garbage) and renew old acquaintances with friends they used to see on these pleasant afternoons.

The above map shows the road to the station which is at the Belmont Corporation Yard. Attendant Jerry Hauser will be delighted to see you and collect a small fee for the dumping privilege.