

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Our Trash

Have you ever wondered what happens to all of the things we don't need anymore?

Trash goes into the landfill, recyclables get processed and mostly reused, but what about the contaminated materials, the things that don't break down or hazardous and electronic waste? They all end up in different places, but precious resources are used in collecting, transporting, sorting, cleaning, storing, reusing and disposing of them.

**TRASH:** Our trash is collected and then put on a train or truck and sent to a landfill approximately fifty miles away.

**RECYCLABLES:** The City of La Verne residents fill approximately 35 trucks full of recyclables every Monday that are brought to a sorting facility. Energy is then used to sort the recyclables, clean them and store them until they are bailed together and sent to companies who manufacture new products out of our old materials. Contamination has become a major problem recently and will change recycling drastically. For more information, please visit the Waste Management residential section of the City of La Verne website (located in the bottom left corner) for more information.

**CONTAMINATED RECYCLABLES:** Materials with food, grease and other contaminating products that cannot be rinsed off become trash and end up in landfills.

**ELECTRONIC WASTE:** When it is brought to an official electronic waste collection, the materials are put through a high tech separation device to extract valuable metals, which are sent to a smelter. The plastics are removed and then the metals and plastics are remade into different products.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE:** When hazardous waste is brought to an official hazardous waste collection event, the materials are separated and processed differently. Some liquids are neutralized, some are reclaimed, sent to smelters and remade into other products, some are placed in hazardous waste landfills, while others are blended or re-refined and used as fuel.

### Water Use Calculator

Have you ever wondered how much water you're using by washing dishes in the dishwasher? How much water your yard requires? How your conservation strategies stack up to others in similar households? Or, maybe you'd just like to know more ways to save water at home. If you'd like to know the answers to these questions and much more, please visit [www.home-water-works.org](http://www.home-water-works.org) On this site you'll find a water use calculator that asks a few questions relating to the type of landscaping you have, equipment in your home and daily habits to calculate an estimate of water usage and carbon footprint relating to water usage in the home. As we are in the midst of another warm So Cal summer, please take a few minutes to reacquaint yourself with your household water usage and remind yourself on some ways to conserve water.

