



**For Immediate Release**

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## **FREE SHOREWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER TOUR PROGRAM KICKS OFF FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR**

*Busing Available for 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes in RethinkWaste Service Area*

**SAN CARLOS, CA - September 9, 2015** – RethinkWaste has kicked off this school year’s free tour program at the Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos. The School Groups Tour program seeks to engage students and increase their knowledge through active learning experiences that are connected to the new California Common Core Connection Standards. Tour participants learn about the 4Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle and rot) and resource conservation, and have the unique opportunity to see firsthand what happens to garbage, recyclables and organics once they are picked up from their homes and businesses. Over 21,000 people have toured the Shoreway Facility since the tour program began in January 2012 for schools and the general public.

RethinkWaste is also continuing to provide free bus transportation for fourth through sixth grade classes in the RethinkWaste service area. To note, bus transportation is not available on Wednesday afternoons. Tours for this school year are offered Monday through Friday through June 2016.

“New this year are additional hands-on activities to make the tour experience more interactive, fun and memorable,” said Faustina Mututa, RethinkWaste Environmental Education Coordinator. “These activities include making a solar jitter bug, where your water comes from puzzle, worms, plant-a-seed and lots more! Our tour schedule is already filling up quickly with both new and returning teachers, serving as a testament of the quality of the tour experience and how as a community, resource conservation continues to be an important topic.”

The approximately two-hour tour includes visiting the Transfer Station, where garbage, food scraps and yard trimmings are handled; a state-of-art Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), where recyclables are processed; the Environmental Education Center, which includes museum-quality exhibits, reuse art and a talking robot; and more. It also includes hands-on learning activities and pre- and post-tour lessons. In addition, the Environmental Education Center has a 10,000 gallon rainwater harvest tank and composting and gardening demonstration area, enabling students and visitors to take back tips on how to conserve water and maintain healthy sustainable gardens at school and at home.

In addition to the tours, RethinkWaste is continuing to offer its free Compost Giveaway Program for schools within its service area. Through the program, schools can receive up to five 50-pound bags of compost for a garden project, or up to 20 cubic yards of the material for landscaping projects per

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MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough  
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

school year. The compost is made from the yard trimmings and food scraps set out by residents and businesses for collection in the green CartSMART and BizSMART containers.

Schools can schedule tours or request compost by visiting [www.RethinkWaste.org](http://www.RethinkWaste.org), sending an email to [tours@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:tours@rethinkwaste.org), or calling (650) 802-3506. All tours will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. The general public is also invited to visit Shoreway during its Public Open House Days, held the first and third Thursday of every month from 9:30 am – 10:30 am and 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. The Shoreway Environmental Center is located at 333 Shoreway Road in San Carlos.

### RethinkWaste

RethinkWaste is a joint powers authority of twelve public Agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County, California and is a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. RethinkWaste owns and manages the award-winning Shoreway Environmental Center which receives all the recyclables, organic materials, and materials (i.e. solid waste) collected in its service area. RethinkWaste's environmental education and tour program has also received state and national awards and hosts over five thousand visitors per year. RethinkWaste also provides strategic oversight, support and management of service providers that collect, process, recycle and dispose of materials for its Member Agencies. RethinkWaste (i.e., South Bayside Waste Management Authority) was formed in 1982. For more information on RethinkWaste, please visit our website at [www.RethinkWaste.org](http://www.RethinkWaste.org) or follow us at [www.Facebook.com/rethinkwaste](http://www.Facebook.com/rethinkwaste) or [www.Twitter.com/rethinkwaste](http://www.Twitter.com/rethinkwaste).

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