

NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
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San Bernardino County recognizes Earth Day

Recognizing the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today proclaimed April 22 as Earth Day in the County of San Bernardino.

Earth Day was founded by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson four decades ago to inspire stewardship of our natural resources. Today, people worldwide celebrate this environmental event.

San Bernardino County government is an active supporter of environmental initiatives such as adoption of green building standards, resource recovery at its solid waste sites, energy and water conservation, alternative energy production, office paper recycling and reuse, use of recycled materials, utilization of low-emission fleet vehicles, and much more.

"As the largest county in the continental U.S. and the county's largest employer, our commitment to the environment makes a difference," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary Ovitt.

The county's Public Works Department/Solid Waste Division collects about 2,800 million cubic feet of landfill gas each year. 45 percent of this gas is used to generate electricity. The Solid Waste Division also oversees the annual diversion of 128,313 tons of waste away from county landfills, and 28,162 tons of waste is recycled by county residents each year through their franchised waste haulers. On average, each resident of the unincorporated areas of the county recycle or divert 7.3 pounds of waste per day.

The county's Fleet Management and Public Works departments have replaced 30 gas- and diesel-powered vehicles with electric vehicles. The county also utilizes 10 Compressed Natural Gas vehicles, four Liquid Natural Gas heavy-duty trucks, and features a fleet of hybrid vehicles.

Public Works now uses six solar message boards rather than board powered by gas generators.