NEWS

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County totes Green for NASCAR at California Speedway

The Green County San Bernardino movement picks up speed this weekend as a program offering eco-friendly reusable shopping bags takes the green flag at the California Speedway.

The Board of Supervisors will provide the green reusable shopping bags to infield race fans during this weekend's NASCAR events at the speedway. The bags will carry up to 22 pounds and are recyclable once they are no longer usable. The County hopes race fans will use and reuse the bags in lieu of disposable plastic bags as they shop at the races and in their communities.

The Green Bag Project is the latest Green County San Bernardino effort by the Board of Supervisors to encourage County residents and visitors to minimize their impact on the environment. Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane launched Green County San Bernardino in August 2007 with a series of initiatives aimed at making County facilities more environmentally friendly and encouraging private industry and residents to do the same.

"Our goal is to make reusable shopping bags part of each residents daily shopping routine", Chairman Biane said. "By replacing plastic bags with reusable bags one shopping trip at time, we can make a significant collective difference."

Each reusable bag will contain a fact sheet that spells out the environmental concerns related to plastic and paper bags. For example, about 12 million barrels of oil and 14 million trees are used to produce billions of plastic and paper bags each year in the U.S.

"We can preserve the natural resources that are expended to produce paper and plastic bags by simply using reusable bags," Biane said. "One reusable bag can replace the need for hundreds of plastic or paper bags during its lifetime. All we need to do is get them into hands of shoppers who can start using them."

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