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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The County Offers Free Programs to Help Your Garden & Close the Loop

The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division (RRWMD), offers free programs to help households divert the yard and food waste they generate from being thrown into the trash.

Backyard Composting Program

The RRWMD will be offering **free** workshops to teach people how to compost where they live:

Saturday, April 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Santa Barbara City College's Lifescape Garden, east campus entrance, past the Stadium in Santa Barbara

Friday, May 1st from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Isla Vista Food Co-op patio, 6575 Seville Road in Isla Vista

Saturday, May 2nd from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Solvang Branch Library, 1745 Mission Drive in Solvang

Saturday, May 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Santa Maria Sustainable Garden, 624 West Foster Road (off frontage road) in Orcutt

The RRWMD also offers Earth Machine composting bins for sale at over 50 percent off the retail price. For more information, please call (805) 882-3618 or visit: www.LessIsMore.org/Compost

"Using leftover food scraps and yard waste to make compost helps divert these materials from the landfill and provides a nutrient-rich source for your garden," according to Sam Dickinson, Program Specialist with the Department. "I encourage people to attend one of these workshops to learn more about composting," he added.

Mulch Program

During times of drought, using mulch to save water is especially important. Yard waste, such as grass, leaves, and flowers, which is collected through the County's curbside green waste recycling program, is processed into mulch that is distributed locally to households and farmers. "Placing mulch around plants can reduce water consumption and reduce weed growth," asserts Joey Costa, the County's Mulch Program Coordinator. Households may obtain free mulch for their homes and gardens by accessing a pile that is maintained at both the South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley Recycling and Transfer Stations. For applicable fees, larger amounts of mulch may be delivered or loaded into qualified trucks at both Transfer Stations. For more information about these options, please call (805) 681-4981.

For more information about the County's Backyard Composting and Mulch Programs, please call (805) 882-3618 or visit www.LessIsMore.org.

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