



April 2002 is Waste-Free Month!

Pack a Waste-Free Lunch!

The Environmental Forum of Marin invites you to join us in celebrating Earth Day on April 22nd by packing waste-free lunches throughout the month of April

Waste-Free is the best way to bring your lunch to work or school every day!

Here are five simple ways to pack a Waste-Free Lunch:

<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
REUSABLE carrier (cloth bag, lunchbox)	NO throw-away bags
REUSABLE food containers	NO plastic wrap, foil or Styrofoam
THERMOS for drinks	NO single-use cartons or cans
CLOTH NAPKIN to wash and re-use	NO paper napkins
SILVERWARE to wash and re-use	NO plastic utensils

Bring What You'll Eat; Eat What You Bring!

FIRST! Reduce ↻ Second: Reuse ↻ and Third: Recycle

The Environmental Forum of Marin sponsors Earth Day 2002 Waste-Free Month.
We welcome your comments or questions: communitydevelopment@MarinEFM.org
Please visit the Environmental Forum of Marin's web site at www.MarinEFM.org



Waste Facts

U.S.A. Lunch Waste Facts

Aluminum cans	Over <u>100 billion</u> beverage cans are made every year.
Plastic bottles	Over <u>6 billion pounds</u> of plastic bottles are made every year.
Styrofoam	Around <u>25 billion</u> Styrofoam cups are used every year. Even 500 years from now, the foam cup you use today will still be sitting in a landfill.
Paper napkins	Americans used almost <u>175 billion pounds</u> of paper (all types) in 2000.

Marin County Waste Facts

- ❖ In 2000, Marin County businesses and households sent over 436 million pounds of waste to the landfill.
- ❖ Marin County residents, on average, dispose of 3.8 pounds of waste per person per day! Weigh your trash this week to see how you compare.
- ❖ Did you know that there is more food in the waste stream than any other single material? In Marin households, it makes up an estimated 20% of the total. Food debris in a landfill decomposes only 25% in the first 15 years. Keep your food cupboards organized and plan your food purchases carefully to cut down on both food and associated packaging waste. Composting is a great, natural way to get rid of food waste.

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Sources: California Integrated Waste Management Board, Marin County Waste Management Division of Public Works, Can Manufacturer's Institute, The Recycler's Handbook, The Green Consumer, American Plastics Council, and the American Forest and Paper Association. The Waste-Free Month promotion began in 1996 with an Earth Day, Every Day grant to the Environmental Forum of Marin. Web Site: www.MarinEFM.org.