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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 Provides Free Mulch for Your Garden and Expert Help to  
Get You Composting in Your Own Backyard!**

The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department supports alternatives to throwing food scraps and yard waste into the landfill – one of the largest generators of methane gas. Sam Dickinson, Program Specialist with the Department, explains, “Leftover food scraps and plant materials can be naturally recycled in your own backyard into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Compost is great for your garden and diverts organics from landfills.”

You can take part in the County’s Backyard Composting Program to save money and reduce your environmental impacts at the same time! The County offers composting bins at wholesale prices at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station at 4430 Calle Real in Santa Barbara. The County also offers free workshops to learn how to compost in your own backyard:

Santa Ynez Valley Workshop: Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Solvang Branch Library, 1745 Mission Drive, Solvang

Santa Barbara Workshop: Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
SBCC’s Life Scape Garden, East Campus entrance, past the stadium, Santa Barbara

Santa Maria Workshop: Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Santa Maria Valley Sustainable Garden, 624 W. Foster Road, Orcutt

Santa Barbara County Public Works Department partners with the Cities of Solvang, Santa Barbara, and Goleta to provide these fun workshops free of charge.

Using your green waste recycling bin is another great way to help complete the organics loop. Yard waste materials like grass, leaves, flowers, and other plants that are discarded into this bin are collected and chipped into a mulch product distributed locally to residents and farmers. Returning this mulch to the soil completes the loop, with many positive impacts for any garden.

As Joey Costa, the County’s Mulch Program Coordinator, describes, “The main benefit of mulching is water conservation and nutrient input.” Get free “load your own” mulch at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station in Santa Barbara. For details contact Joey at 681-4981. Be sure to ask him about low cost loading and delivery options, too.

For more information about the Backyard Composting or Mulch Program, call 882-3618 or visit the County’s recycling website, [www.lessismore.org](http://www.lessismore.org).

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