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Riverside County
NEWS RELEASE

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Five to be recognized for practices that help rewrite environmental footprint

The Department of Waste Resources will recognize five Riverside County businesses and organizations that are rewriting their environmental footprint by implementing sustainable practices.

The Sustainability Award recognizes businesses that exemplify Reduction, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink. These practices include composting, energy recovery, renewable energy, conservation and the practice and awareness of how materials are being used, processed, and consumed.

“These businesses and organizations are demonstrating a long-term commitment to creating healthier communities through sustainable and achievable energy and re-use goals,” said Hans Kernkamp, general manager-chief engineer of the Department of Waste Resources.

The department is responsible for the efficient and effective landfilling of non-hazardous solid waste. In addition to landfill management, the department provides a variety of community services including Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Recycling/Composting Outreach, Illegal Dumping Clean Up, Community Clean-Ups, and Graffiti Abatement.

Local governments and businesses are paying more attention to their environmental practices, in part because the State of California has set a goal of diverting 75 percent of waste from landfills by 2020.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors will recognize the businesses and organizations, one from each supervisorial district, on Tuesday (4/26) at 9 a.m. at 4080 Lemon St. in Riverside. The following organizations will be recognized:

* Habitat for Humanity Riverside Restore, which repurposes, recycles, and resells materials daily, which contributes to its mission of making housing affordable and, in turn, diverting tons from the landfills.

* The City of Riverside is a leader in municipal sustainability. The City has converted 89 percent of its non-emergency fleet to clean-fuel vehicles. The city's efforts have been recognized several times and it has been dubbed the "Emerald City" by the California Department of Conservation for Achievements in Sustainability.

* South Coast Winery Resort & Spa has implemented many diversion and conservation practices such as recycling all bottles, recycling cooking oil into diesel fuel, drip irrigation systems, and an extensive composting program that helps divert over 28 tons of green waste a year from landfills. South Coast has achieved certification in California Sustainable Winegrowing by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance.

* College of the Desert McCarthy Child Development Center provides an extensive early childhood program and teaches the importance of sustainability by setting good examples. It reuses and repurposes most teaching materials and compost on-site. A preschool garden serves a garden-to-table approach that last summer generated over 500 pounds of food for the children and families.

* CR&R has a great recycling infrastructure, including three material recovery facilities that handle mixed waste and commingled recyclables, two green waste composting facilities, a dedicated construction and demolition facility and a compressed natural gas fueling station located in Perris. CR&R is on a path to zero waste with its anaerobic digestion facility project. This project provides a significant path to divert green waste and food waste from landfills.

For more information about the Department of Waste Resources please go to

www.RCWaste.org.