



# Community Recycling Program

---

Since 1997 Conservation Corps North Bay's Community Recycling Program has provided local, county, state, and national parks, businesses, and schools with valuable recycling services and public education needed to dramatically increase recycling throughout the North Bay. Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) crews are responsible for weekly recycling collection at over 400 collection points throughout Marin and Sonoma Counties, as well as educating thousands of Marin County residents about the 4 R's—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover.

This program would not be possible without support from the California Department of Conservation's Department of Recycling, Division of Recycling (DOR). DOR administers the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act (Act) enacted in 1986. The primary goal of the Act is to achieve and maintain high recycling rates for each beverage container type included in the program. According to state statistics:

*“Californians bought 21.9 billion carbonated and non-carbonated drinks in aluminum, glass, plastic and bi-metal containers last year. More than 14.7 billion of those containers were recycled, saving natural resources, conserving energy and extending the life of our landfills.”*

There are currently 12 local, non-profit conservation corps in the state of California; all of them contributing to the effort of collecting as much recyclable material as humanly possible to make the environment, safer, cleaner and healthier for this and future generations. In 2008, collectively, local conservation corps collected over 15 million bottles and cans. Through this and other activities, local corps throughout California are responsible for diverting more than 4 million pounds of material from California landfills; conserving scarce natural resources and saving energy! Our North Bay communities rely on the leadership and initiative of CCNB's Community Recycling corpsmembers to help achieve state-mandated and municipal waste-reduction goals.

Partnerships forged with park personnel, community organizations and agencies, and county businesses and residents are the cornerstone of the program, which meets the following needs of the community:

- Collection of recyclables from more than 400 sites within Marin and Sonoma parklands.
- Education of the public, including schools and businesses, about waste-reduction practices.
- Construction of recycling bins from recycled materials, which are then made available to park agencies and municipalities.
- Recycling collection, education, and consultation at special events, such as the Marin County Fair and the Bioneers Annual Conference.
- The collection of electronic waste.
- Introduction of recycling education curricula to schoolchildren.

Corpsmembers help teachers by making presentations and engaging students in project-based learning activities. Teachers gain access to project ideas, project materials and environmental science curricula through For Earth's Sake, a resource library operated by corpsmembers. The library distributes both environmental curricula and reusable materials collected from local businesses.

While the corpsmembers provide this meaningful service, they also earn a high school diploma through our John Muir Charter School.

*For more information on the Community Recycling Program, please contact CCNB's Recycling and AmeriCorps Program Manager Will Becker at (415) 454-4554 ext. 270 or [wbecker@conservationcorpsnorthbay.org](mailto:wbecker@conservationcorpsnorthbay.org) in Marin County or Director of Sonoma Programs Gary Miltimore at (707) 303-3069 ext. 399 or at [gmiltimore@conservationcorpsnorthbay.org](mailto:gmiltimore@conservationcorpsnorthbay.org) [www.conservationcorpsnorthbay.org](http://www.conservationcorpsnorthbay.org)*