

For Immediate Release

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Protecting Our Landfill Through Better Recycling

Many Tehama County residents are doing their part to recycle and protect the environment. Recycling helps conserve natural resources and keeps waste out of landfills. However, a growing issue is reducing the effectiveness of these efforts: contamination in recycling bins.

Contamination occurs when items that cannot be recycled are placed in recycling carts. Common examples include food-soiled containers, diapers, Styrofoam, and electronics. When these items are mixed in, entire loads of recyclables may be rejected and sent to the landfill. This increases costs and results in more waste being disposed of rather than recycled.

In most cases, contamination is unintentional. Packaging can be confusing, and recycling rules are not always the same from place to place. In rural areas like Tehama County, recycling correctly is especially important because it helps extend the life of our local landfill. Once the Tehama County Red Bluff Landfill reaches capacity, waste will need to be shipped elsewhere, increasing costs for everyone.

Education is one of the most effective ways to address this issue. Teaching our youth about proper recycling helps build good habits early. Schools can support this effort through presentations and hands-on demonstrations that show students what can and cannot be recycled. Students often take this knowledge home, helping spread accurate information throughout the community. To schedule a **4 R's Kids Exhibit** presentation at a school, please contact the Recycling Program Analyst at cgarcia@tehama.gov.

Residents can also make a difference by following a few simple steps. Be sure recyclable items are empty, clean, and dry. If you are unsure whether an item can be recycled, more information is available at <http://www.tehamacountylandfill.com> or by calling (530) 528-1103.

By learning together and making small changes, Tehama County can improve recycling, reduce waste, and protect our community for future generations.