



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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TWO COMMUNITY GARDENS RECEIVE TWENTY TONS OF DONATED COMPOST

Vons Supermarket Recycling Program Donates Compost Made from Food Waste

SAN DIEGO, CA— Community gardeners in Golden Hill and Ocean Beach spent the weekend adding nutritious compost into their garden soil after Vons supermarket donated 10 tons of the organic product to each garden on Saturday, September 9.

Vons' statewide recycling program collects unsold food, floral discards and wax boxes from individual stores, and trucks these organic materials to a composting facility in the San Fernando Valley where they are mixed with yard trimmings. The resulting high-grade compost —rich in nitrogen— is used in gardens, farms, crops and playing fields, and sold in some Vons stores.

“We salute Vons’ generosity and their recycling achievements,” said San Diego City Councilmember Toni Atkins. “Vons is a repeat award recipient of the Environmental Services Department’s Waste Diversion & Recycling Awards program, and efforts like theirs are essential in the City to meet state waste reduction mandates and conserve space in the Miramar Landfill.”

The department’s waste diversion and recycling program has recognized Vons’ recycling program at least nine times since 1997 and at the May 2006 awards program, the company was named “Recycler of the Year” along with other high achieving San Diego businesses.

MORE

*Compost for Community Garden, ADD 1-1-1-1-1
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"Vons has always been dedicated to creating clean, green and healthy communities and we are proud to have pioneered our composting program more than ten years ago," said Curt Smith, Vons Refuse and Recycling Manager. "We are thrilled to partner with our local neighborhoods and organizations like San Diego's Environmental Services Department to help make the most of our programs so that they benefit communities in a meaningful way."

Compost is made from green waste that has been ground, placed in windrows, turned and watered for 60-120 days. Biological activity during the process kills pathogens and turns the material into a valuable soil amendment.

"Compost is one of the best soil amendments you can find," said Stephen Grealy, recycling program manager for the Environmental Services Department. "It improves soil structure, releases nutrients into the soil, increases water holding capacity and reduces the need for water and fertilizers."

For facts on Vons' composting program or to apply for free compost, send a request to sandra.calderon@safeway.com.

Compost made from yard waste is available for sale to the public and landscapers at the City's Miramar Landfill Greenery. San Diego residents can obtain up to two cubic yards of compost for free if self loaded. For more information on Greenery products, go to www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/miramar/greenery.shtml.

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