COUNTY GREEN COMMITTEE

EMPLOYEE INNOVATION

Surplus Property Reuse and Recycling

By Maura Buller, Purchasing & Support Services

Stretch your budget dollars by extending the life of usable personal property. Personal property - including office furniture/equipment, office supplies, maintenance/repair/operations items, medical supplies and equipment, vehicles, and modular structures - become surplus or obsolete to the County. These items are turned over to the Purchasing and Support Services Department for proper repurposing, sale, or disposal.

Purchasing offers surplus property at www.publicsurplus.com. First choice at **no cost** goes to other County departments. Next it is offered for sale to non-profit community-based organizations and then the general public.

Utilizing surplus stretches our budget dollars. A new item costs money, and the process of manufacturing new items also consumes energy. Even recycling costs more and uses more energy than making an item last thru reuse.

Example: A department had surplus plastic floor mats for under desk chairs. Maura Buller, our surplus expert in Purchasing and Support Services, went on a quest to find alternatives to disposal. Suggested uses:

- Cut one into a pet door flap. The points brush their fur as they pass.
- Turn one over to move heavy furniture.
- Put one under a vehicle that leaks oil for easy cleanup.
- Lay one over a cord to prevent a tripping hazard.
- Use some in the garden as "stepping stones."

Let Maura know if you can use these mats, especially in larger quantities. They are made of recyclable plastic (#3, vinyl/PVC) and can be recycled, so please do not discard mats into the regular garbage. Place them into your recycling container; they may need to be cut to fit.

Contact Maura Buller in Purchasing & Support Services at mbuller@sjgov.org or 8-3263.

THE REBICYCLE PROJECT

Bicycles brought to Public Work's Solid Waste disposal facilities are recycled for the metal. Last year two Supervisors at the Lovelace Facility, Manuel Chavez and Roy Constantino, realized many bikes are still in good shape. With just a little cleanup and repair, they could be given to underprivileged children as holiday gifts. Roy and Manuel presented their idea to facilities manager, Bill Baier, who brought it to our Solid Waste Manager, Desi Reno.

Management Analyst Elisa Moberly organized the outreach, funding, and distribution. The ReBicycle Project team also includes the Green Team San Joaquin and three clean air organizations who recognize that bikes are a better, cleaner alternative to cars. Robby's Bicycles in Stockton has provided parts for the bicycles at cost. We have also been contacted by businesses and individuals who want to help.

We began by rescuing the best bikes from the recycling. Most needed tubes, seats, grips, or tires. We contacted local charities to ensure the bikes went to those truly in need. Bikes were given to the Child Abuse Prevention Council, a gang prevention non-profit, two community programs, a church, and an Eagles Lodge. Sixty-nine bicycles have been distributed.

Due to the success of the initial distribution and the volume of discarded bicycles, three distributions are planned for this year: May for Bike To Work Week and start of summer vacation, August for back to school, and in December for the holidays. The ReBicycle Project is also working with charities to help adults that need a bike for transportation to keep their jobs. People have volunteered to help refurbish bikes.

The ReBicycle Project reflects Public Work's commitment to reuse and demonstrates stewardship and creativity in all of our employees.

Contact Elisa for details: ermoberly@sjgov.org.

Find more information about the REACON Green Business Assessment at www.GreenTeamSanJoaquin.com

CALL FOR ACTION: We need your help! Sub-committees have been formed for website, communication, goals, and electronics/technology. Bring ideas and/or talents. If interested, email David Louis at dlouis@sjgov.org.