

# Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

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## *Cham Tema*

“Our Land”

### **Soboba Tribal Environmental Department**

The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians’ Tribal Environmental Department is committed to protecting, restoring, and enhancing natural resources on the Soboba Reservation for all Tribal Members: past, present, and future.



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# Recycling Refresher

Here is information about recycling some basic items. It's easy to forget what all can be recycled. Do your part to recycle as much as you can and always look at the products you buy to see if "made from recycled material" is an option.



**Paper** - The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. Paper makes up nearly 30% of all wastes we throw away each year, more than any other material. Americans recycled about 63 percent of the paper they used in 2010. This recovered paper is used to make new paper products, saving trees and other natural resources. Don't try and recycle anything with food or oil on it. Soiled paper can render the other paper products around it unusable as well.



**Plastic** - Americans generated 31 million tons of plastics in 2010, about 12% of the waste stream. Every year, the US produces enough plastic film to cover the state of Texas. Only 8% of plastics were recycled in 2010. It takes a long time for plastic to decompose, up to 400 years for a plastic cup. Some types of plastics are recycled much more than others. The symbols on the bottom of plastic bottles and containers were created by plastic manufacturers to help people identify the kind of plastic resin used to make the container. This can help you determine if the container can be accepted by a recycling program. The resin number is contained in a triangle, which looks very similar to the recycling symbol, but this does not necessarily mean it can be collected for recycling. If there is no number, then the material is considered "generically recyclable." Recycling numbers 1, 2, and often 5 are commonly accepted by most curbside recycling programs.



**Glass** - Glass, especially glass food and beverage containers, can be recycled over and over again. Americans generated 11.5 million tons of glass in 2010, about 27% of which was recovered for recycling. Making new glass from recycled glass is typically cheaper than using raw

materials. A glass bottle can take up to 1 million years to breakdown in a landfill.



**Aluminum** - It takes 500 years for an aluminum can to decay. A recycled aluminum can return to the shelves of a grocery store a mere 90 days after they are collected by the recycling plant. Used aluminum beverage cans are the most recycled item in the U.S., but other types of aluminum, such as siding, gutters, car components, storm window frames, and lawn furniture can also be recycled. Recycling 1 aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for 2 hours - or a computer for 3.

For more information about recycling, check out the following resources:



## US EPA

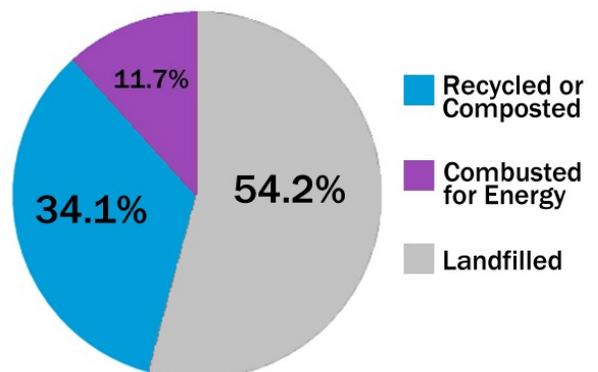
<http://www.epa.gov/recycle/recycle.html>

**CalRecycle** For general public inquiries, please call us at 1-800-Recycle (732-9253) or visit <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/>

<http://earth911.com/> for places to recycle any items

An **A-Z guide** with general suggestions for many items: <http://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/organizing/tips-techniques/recycle-anything-0000000006117/index.html>

## What Happens to Stuff We Throw Away\*?



\*Based on the 2010 Municipal Solid Waste Characterization Report

# Is Groundwater Always Clean?

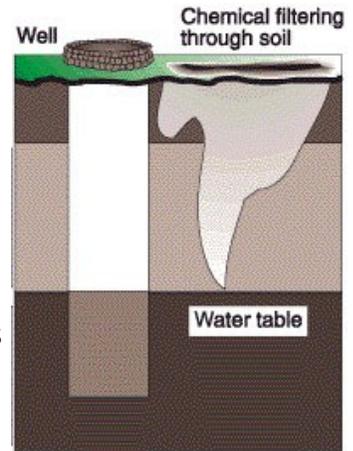
Water being drawn from a well was once precipitation that fell onto Earth's surface. It seeped into the ground and, over time, occupied the porous space in some subsurface material. Naturally, big particles that can be found in streams, such as leaf chunks, will not be seen in ground water. So big particles are filtered out. But ground water can contain other natural or human-made items that you can't see. Ground water can contain hydrogen sulfide or other naturally occurring chemicals. Ground water also may contain petroleum, organic compounds, or other chemicals introduced by humans' activities.

Contaminated ground water can occur if the well is located near land used for farming where certain kinds of chemicals are applied to crops, or near a gas station that has a leaking storage tank. Leakage from septic tanks and/or waste-disposal sites also can contaminate ground water. A septic tank can introduce bacteria to the water, and pesticides and fertilizers that seep into farmed soil can eventually

end up in water drawn from a well. Or, a well might have been placed in land that was once used for something like a garbage or chemical dump site.

The Soboba Water Department checks the wells for contaminants and groundwater quality. Each year they create a report called the Consumer Confidence Report that provides information about the drinking water on the Reservation. If you want a copy of this report, contact Ken McLaughlin, Director of Public Works, at (951) 487-7445.

This article was taken in part from the U.S. Geological Survey Department of the Interior/USGS. Additional information can be found at their website: <http://www.usgs.gov/>



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# What Does “Carbon Footprint” Mean for Me?



**What is a carbon footprint?** A carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), or sometimes the total of greenhouse gases (GHGs),

produced by all of the activities a person or entity does to carry out a process or their daily life. An individual's footprint comes from things like driving a car, using electricity, or eating. Product footprints include materials used to make it, packaging and transporting it to the store.

**Why should I worry about a carbon footprint?** Man-made sources of GHGs are the main cause of climate change. If everyone lowers their footprint, some of the negative effects of climate change may be lessened or even prevented. Also many things you do to reduce your footprint can save you money.

**What are ways reduce to my carbon footprint?**

- 1) Carpool or combine errands to save gas. Every gallon of gas you don't use prevents 20 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the air and saves you a few dollars.
- 2) Wash clothes in cold water instead of hot. For a family of 4, this can keep up to 500 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> out of our air and save up to \$40/year on the energy bill
- 3) Plant one tree native to the area. This can sequester (hold onto) about 50 lbs per year of CO<sub>2</sub>
- 4) Don't leave electronics on standby. This could save 5-10 % of your home's energy. The average household spends \$100/year to power items while they are "off."

Visit the EPA's carbon footprint calculator to find out more:

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/ind-calculator.html>



EST. JUNE 19, 1883

If you have any questions on information in the newsletter or any other environmental concerns contact:

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# Community Clean Up Day

The Environmental Department hosted a Community Clean Up Day on March 2. There was a good turnout with the opportunity where people got rid of a lot of waste which is hard to dispose of. Double Barrel Environmental Services came to the event and helped us safely dispose of household hazardous waste like paint, oil, and cleaners. Hoarders without Borders (a local nonprofit organization) also helped out with the recycling of electronics as well as reusing items that would have been thrown away by giving them to families in need.

The Department hosts clean up days as a way to help residents figure out how to throw away things that should not go in the trash. It also helps Soboba reduce the amount of items that get taken into landfills by sorting out the types of items that don't belong and removing items

that can be reused or recycled into new uses. There are usually two clean up days per year, so if you missed out, look for a second clean up day sometime in September. If you have an item that you aren't sure what to do with, contact the Environmental Department or check out the resources below.

Hoarders without Borders (951) 665-8082

Recycling: <http://search.earth911.com/>

More info on how to dispose of items: <http://www.rivcowm.org/opencms/>



## Upcoming Events

There are a couple events that are coming up that you may want to know about:

- 7th Annual Soboba Tribal Earth Day. April 18<sup>th</sup> 11am - 3 pm at the Tribal Hall. Contact the Environmental Department with questions.
- Soboba Basketweavers Gathering "Balancing Our Lives through Traditional Practices" April 27 at the Oaks. Contact Carrie Garcia at (951) 654-5544 x 4138



**Car Seat Safety Class** - Soboba TERC will be hosting a car seat safety class will be held this spring. Each participant who attends the class will receive a car seat for each child in the home who is under the age of 8. Once enough people are signed up, the date can be scheduled. Stop by the

Environmental Department office or the Soboba Preschool for a registration form or call Erica Helms-Schenk at (951) 654-5544 x 4129



## No Sew T-Shirt Tote

If you have an old t-shirt that you no longer wear, make a simple reusable tote to take the place of plastic bags at the grocery store or new totes.

1. Lay the shirt flat and cut the sleeves off.
2. Cut out the neck and make a bigger scoop that will become the opening of the bag.
3. At the bottom of the shirt, cut slits about every inch through both layers long enough to tie them twice. Remember the shirt will stretch with weight so try to make sure your tote isn't going to hang too low.
4. Keep the slits lined up and starting with one end tie the aligning front and back pieces together in double knots until you have done the entire row. If you don't want the knots to show you can tie them on the inside for a less fringed look.

