

**BERKELEY**  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA

SCALE IN FEET



The above map shows the 20 different districts and days for newspaper pick-ups. For example, 4-F refers to the fourth Friday of the month.

# Ecology Centers' Free Curbside Pickup Recycles Berkeley's Old Newspapers

By SARAH WALLACE

Every month 300 to 500 tons of newspapers are delivered on Berkeley lawns or sold on Berkeley

streets, but residents don't seem to realize that old newspapers can be picked up right at their doorstep or curbside to be recycled.

Either that, or people just aren't bothering to put out their papers for

60 tons a month.

The center also collects papers from Berkeley's two recycling centers on Dwight Way and Grove Street and on University and Sacramento Avenues. The University

Either that, or people just aren't bothering to put out their papers for recycling, according to Dick Evans, who heads the newspaper pick-up project at the Berkeley Ecology Center.

Since June 1973 the ecology center has been operating a free curbside pick-up of old newspapers, aiming eventually to recycle all recoverable newsprint.

### Tying It Up

The city has been divided into 20 separate districts, one for each of the first 20 weekdays of the month (see map). Newspapers must be tied in 10-inch bundles and placed on the curb before 8:30 a.m. The center can be called at 548-2220 regarding pick-up days for specific areas.

The center started the pickups because newspapers represent a substantial portion of Berkeley's reclaimable garbage, Evans said. To date, however, the pick-up program has collected only an average of 50 to

Street and on University and Sacramento Avenues. The University Avenue center is open weekends, and Dwight Way center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The recycling centers accumulate about 40 tons of paper a month.

### Paper Thieves

The ecology center uses only two trucks to pick up newspapers over the entire city. Rick Codina, a center staff member, said it is the only group with regular newspaper pick-up service.

Thefts of the bundled papers have been a problem in the past, said Codina, but because the market for used paper is in a decline, no one wants them now.

Terry Harrison, Berkeley Solid Waste Commission consultant, said the decreased demand stems from:

- The devaluation of the Japanese yen, setting back that economy and lessening Japanese demand for U.S. paper.
- Fall off in demand for recycled paper, coupled with an increase in the amount of used paper collected.

### Egg Cartons

The center sells its papers to Packaging Company of California, which recycles them into fruit trays and egg cartons. The company pays \$18 a ton for the papers but that doesn't cover the ecology center's truck rental costs and employe salaries, Evans said.

The newspaper project is \$4,000 to \$6,000 in debt, Evans said.

"With the price of used newspapers being down and people not putting out their papers," he said, "We're just doing a service, certainly not making a profit."

Because of the lack of funds, Evans said the ecology center has been unable to adequately advertise the program or convince the public of the advantages of recycling and other energy-saving measures.

He said he recently drafted a proposal to the Berkeley City Council requesting \$7,500 for the program.