

## California adds fourth R - Refill

# Program Focuses on One-Pound Propane Tanks

An article in *Waste360* highlights the recent success in California of a refillable gas cannister program. "Californians purchase some 4 million of the 40 million disposable one-pounders [propane gas cylinders] sold annually nationwide.

To keep them out of the waste stream, the Golden State is promoting small refillable canisters that make reuse as simple and routine as exchanging the 20-pound propane containers that fuel barbecue grills.

Kamps Propane has taken a leadership role with a statewide campaign called Refuel Your Fun, funded with a CalRecycle grant. About a year ago, Kamps devised Little



Kampers, refillable one-pound cylinders that can be bought and traded in via the company's network of retail outlets and exchange services."

One-pound disposables—which can be recycled like any other steel once freed of gas by experts—have become an eyesore and a financial headache at iconic landmarks. For instance, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks spent \$2,656 for proper handling and recycling of the 2,125 cylinders it collected last year. And Sunnyvale, CA spent \$144,000 to properly dispose of the 16,000-plus cylinders workers pulled from sorting lines