



RECOLOGYSF.com

Recology Sunset Scavenger and Recology Golden Gate, your local recycling companies

RECYCLE
COMPOST

Why is zero waste important?

San Francisco is doing a good job of recycling, but we still send more than 1,200 tons a day to the landfill, and much of that material could be recycled or composted.

Compostable material, such as food scraps, soiled paper, and plants, are the largest component of trash dumped in landfills. If buried in a landfill, these organic materials decompose in an airless environment and produce methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

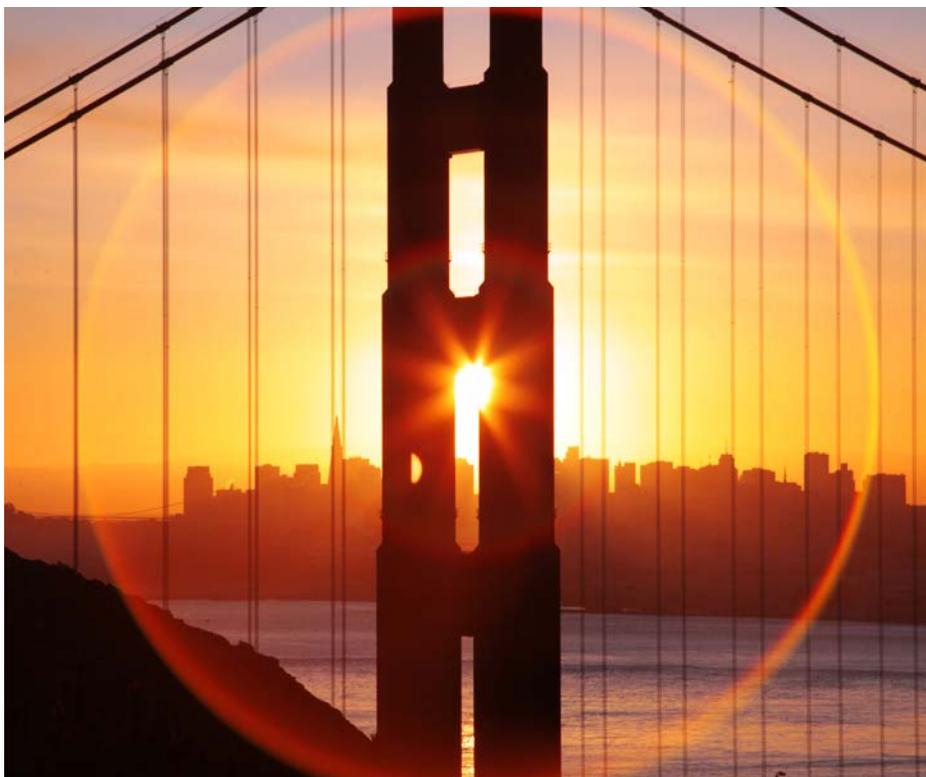
When we toss our discards into a recycling, compost, or trash bin each of us individually determines where our throwaways ultimately go.

If we toss things such as vegetable peelings and coffee grounds into a green bin, they are diverted from landfills, turned into nutrient-rich compost at a modern compost facility, and applied to local farms and vineyards.

Your green bin compost collection program returns nutrients and carbon to topsoil and gives farmers a viable alternative to using chemical fertilizers. That helps farmers grow organic food to support your family's good health.

Since starting the green bin program in San Francisco in 1996, Recology has collected and composted more than 1.2 million tons of food scraps, plants, and soiled paper, creating a total CO₂ equivalent benefit (methane avoided and carbon sequestered) of at least 640,000 metric tons. That is equal to offsetting all emissions from all vehicles crossing the Bay Bridge for about three and a half years.*

Here are some other milestones San Francisco has achieved in the pursuit of zero waste:



Zero waste means a cleaner, healthier city for everyone.

Photo: Larry Strong

- By recycling 1.2 million tons of paper in 10 years in the blue bin program, San Francisco residents and businesses saved 20 million trees.

- By recycling 174,000 tons of glass, we saved enough energy to power the city's cable car system for nearly three years.

- By recycling 135,000 tons of metal, we saved 19 million gallons of oil.

Recycling also creates permanent, local jobs. A recent study found that if the nation's diversion rate grew to 75 percent, we would create 1.1 million new jobs.

For all these reasons and more, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors set a goal of achieving zero waste by 2020. Together we have made great strides, and we continue to push toward zero waste.

Keep watching for new programs and expanded opportunities to help improve diversion at home, work, and about town. Your efforts will come back as new products and healthy food and will help make San Francisco a cleaner, healthier city for everyone.

*Greenhouse gas offsets based on a protocol set by the Climate Action Reserve.

Unexpected works inspire travelers at SFO

A wooden skateboard becomes a painter's canvas, plastic bags once used to deliver newspapers are woven into an elegant evening dress, and hundreds of Styrofoam blocks are reconfigured as a full-sized replica of a Hummer.

An exhibition featuring more than 100 artworks made from refuse is on display at San Francisco International Airport. The works were created by 45 Bay Area artists who participated in the Artist in Residence Program sponsored by Recology San Francisco.

The program provides artists with a stipend, 24-hour access to studio space, and permission to scavenge for materials at the transfer station, which we fondly call "the dump."

The exhibition features works intended to encourage greater awareness of the waste stream and new ways of thinking about resource conservation and sustainability.

The Art of Recology is the largest exhibition of artwork from the 23-year-old program. The works are on display through Oct. 27 in the United Terminal boarding area. The exhibition is located past security so can only be viewed by those traveling.

In May we plan to post a video and a slide show of this art exhibition online. To learn more about the exhibition go to recologysf.com/AIR.



"Last Dive at the Farallones: 100,000 marine mammals killed per year" was created by Ethan Estess in 2012 from reclaimed wood, Styrofoam, and rope.

Photo: SFO Museum



Team work will keep SF clean and beautiful

People who live in San Francisco and really love this city are pulling together to fight litter and illegal dumping. We pick up fast-food soda cups and toss them in composting bins. We hate to see mattresses, dumped in the night, litter our neighborhoods.

Residents, businesses, and city workers do what we can to clean up messes created by those who seem not to care. Now a new initiative launched by Mayor Ed Lee looks to create further momentum in our collective efforts to keep our city clean.

In February the mayor and the World Champion San Francisco Giants joined forces and kicked off the Giant Sweep Anti-Litter Campaign. It is a citywide program involving schools, residents, businesses, and community groups. The goal is to work together as a team to keep San Francisco clean and beautiful.



The campaign involves hands-on activities pairing city workers with community volunteers to pick up litter

and includes a new classroom curriculum and a public information campaign. "It's going to take a team effort to keep our city world-class, clean, and green," said Mayor Lee. "We want to create a culture of clean so that everyone from young to old can embrace their role as a city steward and reject the idea that it's OK to litter. We all need to join the team to keep SF clean."

To get involved go to sfgiantsweep.org and click on the big green "Batter Up" button that says "take the Giant Sweep Pledge," and fill it out. Keep an eye out for Giant Sweep poster and video contests, flash mobs, prizes for volunteers, and more ways to pitch in. The website is a great way to stay connected.

Last year the Giants showed us that winning the World Series took a team effort that went far beyond individual heroics. The same approach will help keep our neighborhoods clean. We'll roll up our sleeves and get the job done together. As with other community service efforts, our city, our home, will be better for it, and we will have fun and make new friends along the way.

Lifeline rates for eligible customers

NO. OF PERSONS LIVING IN YOUR HOME	TOTAL GROSS ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME (ALL SOURCES)
1 or 2	\$21,855 or less
3	\$27,465 or less
4	\$33,075 or less
More than 4	Add \$5,610 for each additional person

Discounted refuse rates are available to low-income households and to disabled residents who cannot bring their blue, green, and black bins to the curb.

Lifeline applications are available online at RecologySF.com/residentialRates.htm. For more information about rates call 330-1300.

Recycling Q&A

HOW DO I RECYCLE HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES?

San Francisco residents can place used household batteries (like flashlight batteries) in a clear, sealable plastic bag and put the bag on top of their black bins. Our collector will toss the batteries in a special bucket on the route collection truck.

We ship used batteries to a company that specializes in recycling batteries. The company takes the batteries apart and recycles all the pieces. This program is not for car or motorcycle batteries. Please place tape over the ends of lithium batteries.

Owners and managers of apartment buildings can contact Recology Sunset Scavenger or Recology Golden Gate and we will provide orange battery recycling buckets.

We recommend that you place the bucket in the lobby of your apartment building. When the bucket is full, call us and we will exchange your full bucket for an empty one and recycle your old batteries.

WHERE DOES MY TRASH GO?

People rarely think about that question or the answer, but we all should.

Imagine a national program called "follow your refuse" where everyone would spend one day touring a landfill, a recycling facility, a modern compost facility, and a local farm that uses the compost to grow organic fruits and vegetables.

You would finish the day dining at a lovely restaurant. There you would enjoy a delicious and nutritious salad and a fine glass of wine made of produce and grapes grown on local farms nourished with compost made from food scraps and plants collected in the city.

If we all spent one day to actually see, touch, and smell where our refuse goes, we would all take steps to reduce the amount of trash we create and we would be more attentive to recycling and composting.

A new documentary hosted by Academy Award winner Jeremy Irons attempts to bring the landfill to the people. "Trashed," which won "most



meaningful documentary" at the Cannes Film Festival last summer, offers a close view of landfills and incinerators. Asked what can people do about the trash problem, Irons said, "We should find out where our garbage goes."

Most trash from San Francisco goes to Altamont Landfill, east of Livermore.

Recology employees-owners do not see trash when we look at discards. We see a mix of resources that should be kept out of landfills. Join our efforts. Take a closer look at your "trash" and you too will see cardboard, metal, paper, glass, and food scraps, all things that should be recycled and composted.

Send less to the landfill, and with your help, San Francisco will get a little closer to zero waste every day. And that will benefit everyone.

NEED ANOTHER RESOURCE?

Sorting your discards into the blue, green, and black bins makes a big difference. The more we recycle and compost, the more resources we save. Now, you can go to Whatbin.com for more information about which materials go in which bin.

Food scraps, soiled paper, and yard trimmings go in the green bin and are turned into compost, which local farms use to help grow healthy fruits and vegetables for your table. Paper, bottles, cans, cardboard, and hard or rigid plastic, such as molded plastic packaging, go in the blue bin and are made into new products. Items such as juice boxes (which are aseptic packaging) and Styrofoam go in the black bin.

If you are unsure about which materials go in which bin, go to Whatbin.com and select a category or type an item in the search bar to find the information you need. You can also learn more about the different recycling programs Recology provides in San Francisco.