



## ROLLOUT COMPLETE, BRAVO!

# Single-family homes in S.F. recycle more, send less to landfill

In June we finished delivering larger recycling bins and smaller trash bins to single-family homes across San Francisco. At the City's direction, we increased the size of recycling bins from 32 to 64 gallons and reduced the size of trash bins from 32 to 16 gallons.

We mailed a letter, a postcard, and a brochure to customers in advance of delivering their larger blue and smaller black bins. We also affixed new lid stickers to all three bins.

These simple actions set the stage for residents of single-family homes to achieve one of the biggest wins in years in San Francisco's efforts to boost recycling and reduce landfill disposal.

### The big news

Citywide recycling increased 10 percent and tons collected for landfill disposal declined 10 percent. Tons collected for curbside composting in the green bin increased 2.5 percent. These double-digit improvements in the quest to increase recycling and reduce landfill disposal are the biggest in 20 years.

### Room for cardboard boxes

Customers like the larger blue bin because it gives them more room to recycle cardboard boxes.



The bin swap gave single-family homes 16 gallons more capacity. Larger blue bins are great for recycling cardboard boxes.

### More gallons for same price

The change in standard bin sizes gave single-family homes 16 additional gallons in total compared to the old standard at no additional cost.

### Bravo San Francisco

Word that changing the standard bin sizes in San Francisco and boosting outreach achieved these positive results caught the attention of other cities, and they are beginning to follow our lead.

## Tips from the truck

### Clean and dry

San Francisco and cities across the nation are encouraging people to keep liquids and food out of recycling bins. That's important because 80 percent of the material in recycling bins is either paper or cardboard.

Tossing half-full bottles of soda or jars still containing some amount of food in a recycling bin will contaminate paper inside the bin. Don't let one or two containers wreck the paper and cardboard you place in your recycling bin.



Empty all bottles and cans before recycling them. Give jars a quick rinse when doing your dishes. When we all do our part, everyone wins.

### Break down cardboard boxes

To help reduce litter, the City of San Francisco wants customers to place all discards inside collection bins designated for their property.



Recology truck driver  
Demario Kelly



Just one cardboard box, if not flattened, can take up much of the space inside your recycling bin. This has become a bigger issue in recent years with the increase in online shopping and more boxes being delivered to residential addresses.

Be sure to break down cardboard boxes before recycling them to preserve space in your recycling bin for bottles, cans, and paper. And flattening boxes allows the bin lid to close, keeping paper and other recyclables inside.

### Don't bag bottles and cans

Please do not put bottles, cans, and paper in plastic bags. That makes it difficult for recycling workers to see what is inside. And loose plastic bags can plug recycling equipment, reducing the effectiveness of mechanical sorting.

Additionally, people around the world are trying to reduce usage of plastic bags. Globally, we consume 1 million plastic bags a minute. They harm sea life such as whales, sea turtles, and birds. For these reasons, California and many countries, states, and cities, including San Francisco, have passed restrictions on plastic bags. Be part of the solution. Go bagless.

Email us: [CustomerService@RecologySF.com](mailto:CustomerService@RecologySF.com)



# Single-use plastic — once you know it you can refuse it

When we buy groceries, beverages, and many other products they often come packaged in plastic. And, unfortunately, much of that plastic is “single-use plastic.” Also called disposable plastics, single-use plastics are typically used only once before being thrown away or recycled.

Single-use plastics include, among other items, plastic: bags, wrap, bottles, straws, cups, cutlery, disposable coffee cup lids, and molded packaging.

Globally, we consume 1 million plastic bags a minute. Most get used just once.

Researchers say 40 percent of plastic produced is packaging, used once, then discarded.

Every year 8 million tons of plastics enter our oceans in addition to the estimated 150 million tons that currently circulate in marine environments.



Single-use plastics such as these pollute beaches and harm marine life.

## Recycling

Statisticians report that just 9 percent of all plastic ever made has likely been recycled.

The San Francisco Department of the Environment and Recology strongly encourage recycling. We can recycle many plastics, including plastic water bottles and empty yogurt tubs.

Recycle Central, the 200,000-square-foot plant on Pier 96 combines modern equipment with hand sorting by recycling workers to separate recyclables into 14 different materials, including seven different types of plastic. And we work very hard to find recycling brokers and mills that will buy sorted plastics.

## Less is more

Recycling is good, but reducing plastic by refusing to buy food, beverages, and goods that are over packaged or in single-use plastics is even better.

Want to help San Francisco reduce consumption of single-use plastics? Carry a metal water bottle. You will reduce consumption of plastic bottles and save more than \$200 a year because you will no longer be buying water in plastic.

When shopping keep reusable tote bags handy. Bring your own travel mug when visiting coffee shops. In both cases, you will again reduce consumption of single-use plastic and save money. Before you order a drink, be sure to say, “No straw please.”

The City of San Francisco recently passed an ordinance restricting the use of single-use foodware plastic. For details, go to [SFEnvironment.org/reduceplastic](https://sfenvironment.org/reduceplastic).

Every time we refuse single-use plastics we send a powerful message to the marketplace. Our collective efforts can change the world.

# Reusables containers are popular for lunches



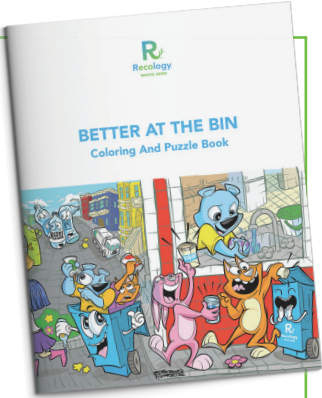
◀ Families can choose from a variety of reusable containers for school lunches and snacks. These are from U-Konserve.

entering the food chain, students and the parents who prepare school lunches have set a new course.

Many students in San Francisco have embraced reuse and ditched single-use.

Recent visits to elementary schools in San Francisco proved this true. In cafeterias across the city nearly every student’s lunch is packed, at least in part, in reusable containers. Every backpack sports a reusable bottle.

Let’s learn together and connect with our kids. Whenever possible, pack your lunches in reusable containers. It is the right thing to do and will save your family money too.



## Coloring book, free download

Recology created a Coloring and Puzzle Book to engage kids and raise awareness about recycling, composting, and reducing waste by practicing reuse.

The book and a companion teacher’s guide are posted on the Recology microsite [BetterAtTheBin.com](https://BetterAtTheBin.com).

Engage with Recology on social media to receive updates, tips, and more!



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