



SIMPLE WAYS TO REDUCE PLASTIC

Once a marvel, now a menace

Plastic bags and other low-grade plastics are affecting our environment in very negative ways. Plastics enter our oceans where they can harm wildlife and have been found inside whales, fish, and birds.

The best thing we can do, in an effort to solve this problem, is reduce our use of plastics.

Consumers have a lot of power in this discussion. If we refuse to buy food and other products in plastic packaging, such as three zucchinis on a Styrofoam tray wrapped in film plastic, businesses will have to reduce or eliminate their plastic packaging.

You can make an immediate difference by using a metal water bottle, carrying a travel mug for coffee or tea, keeping reusable (canvas) tote bags handy when shopping, and composting food scraps. To avoid non-recyclable food packaging, buy loose produce at local farmer's markets. Make dinners and lunches at home and pack them in reusable metal or glass containers to avoid single-use plastics such as clamshell containers.

If we all adopt these good green habits, we can change the world.

For more helpful tips on how to reduce plastics, including plastic bags and other film plastics, please visit the Recology microsite BetterAtTheBin.com.

Tote bags, metal water bottles, travel mugs, and compost pails are effective tools for reducing waste.



Artful gates help beautify SF parks

Jim Growden, an artist and Recology retiree, makes beautiful iron gates that mark special green spaces in San Francisco.

He has created 13 sets of gates for entrances to small parks and community gardens. Growden's gates help beautify the Golden Gate Park Community Garden and a series of park spaces in Visitacion Valley.

On Saturday, March 23, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department opened McLaren Park Community Garden. Growden's latest set of gates marks the entrance.

Growden was a Recology Artist in Residence in 1991 and maintains an active relationship with the program. The gates he designs are welded at Recology San Francisco.



Artist Jim Growden (left) and Recology Senior Operations Manager Kenny Stewart at McLaren Community Garden, which has more than 40 planter boxes.



Playful mural on truck inspires students, adults to recycle, compost, and reduce waste



Left: Cathay Bi and Max, age 1, enjoyed seeing Recology's Better At The Bin recycling truck at the Touch-A-Truck festival.

Recology hired a former Artist in Residence, Sirron Norris, to create a special mural to stimulate discussion about recycling, composting, and taking simple steps to make less trash. Sirron did such a great job, we wrapped the mural on a new recycling truck. The Better At The Bin truck is appearing at San Francisco schools and public events and will be used on residential routes.

The colorful artwork on the truck was a big hit with young families at the Touch-A-Truck festival held in the Presidio in April. People took photos of the truck and selfies standing in front of the mural's playful characters. Sirron also hosted a workshop with students and produced a video featuring kids encouraging everyone to keep recycling and composting.

The video is fun and shows something very important: the kids get it, and they want adults to get it too — keep recycling. Check out the kids' video and other clips on the Recology microsite BetterAtTheBin.com. We also created a coloring and puzzle book for kids and a companion teacher's guide. They are posted on the site for free download and public use.



Schedule a special pickup for large items

When your old washer no longer works, your TV is too antiquated for streaming, or you just need to clear old or damaged things from your garage or home — schedule a special collection through Recology's Bulky Item Recycling (BIR) program. Residential customers, including apartment tenants, can use this service for up to 10 items per collection. Recology provides curbside collection of large or bulky items at no additional cost to residential customers. If you can't get your items to the curb, we can provide a quote for inside service. Schedule a pickup online at Recology.com or BulkyItemRecycling.com. Or call our Customer Service Department at (415) 330-1300. See BulkyItemRecycling.com for complete program guidelines.

Break down cardboard boxes before recycling

Cardboard boxes from online shopping can overcrowd your recycling bin. The trick is to flatten or break down boxes into smaller sections. That saves space in your recycling bin for your other recyclables such as bottles, cans, and paper. Please make sure cardboard is two feet or less in any dimension so it can fit inside your recycling bin. Doing so will save you time and effort and complies with guidelines set by the City. Thank you very much.



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