

Recycle & compost bins tell it like it is

Our blue and green bins are always ready to receive the things we toss. If, by some crazy magic, these sentries of the sidewalk could speak, what would they say?

Blue: Feed me more clean paper, such as computer paper, stationery, and envelopes. San Francisco does a good job of recycling, but people still toss paper in trash bins. When you put paper in me, we save trees, and energy, and water. And another great reason to recycle more — Recycling creates 10 times more jobs than landfilling or incineration.

Us: I hear you about paper Blue, but sometimes it can be hard to know which items can be recycled and which can't.

Blue: Feed me all cans and all glass and plastic bottles, and things made of hard or stiff plastic like yogurt containers and plastic cups. But no plastic bags. They wrap around recycling equipment in the big building where materials are sorted and baled.

Us: OK. I'm with you on those things Blue. And Green? Can you talk too?

Green: I absolutely love coffee grounds and food scraps. Please feed me all you've got. The scraps become compost that goes to local farms, orchards, and vineyards. But I also see far too many things tossed in the trash that definitely should be tossed in me.

Us: Hmm.

Yes. I've heard good things about the compost program.

Green: I'll eat what you don't. When you clean out the fridge, feed me all food scraps, plant cuttings, and food-soiled paper like used napkins and paper towels.

Us: Even spoiled lunch meat?

Green: Yes, and steak bones and pizza crusts, and crab shells, all that stuff and more.

Us: You have quite an appetite.

Green: I'm insatiable. Remember, when we make compost we give local farms a great alternative to synthetic (chemical) fertilizers. Compost feeds the soil. Farms grow your food.

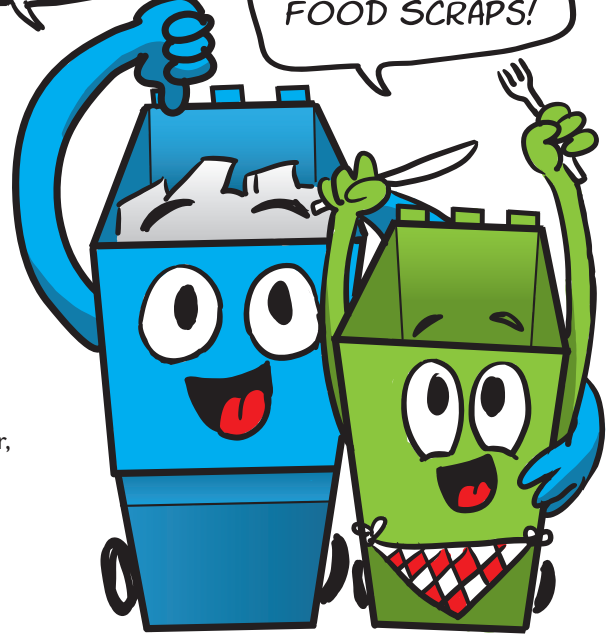
Us: Those are very good points. More scraps for you. Since we are talking, I'm curious — can we really get to zero waste?

Blue: We can and we must.

Recycling and compost programs are highly effective ways to help protect the environment. Think of the trash bin as a last resort. Trash bins are portals to landfills and incinerators. Things tossed in the trash do not get recycled.

MORE CLEAN PAPER PLEASE!

FEED ME MORE FOOD SCRAPS!



Green: San Francisco's goal is for the trash bin to get smaller and smaller and eventually go away. Starve your trash bin. Think — more blue, more green.

Us: Wow. We must talk again.

Blue: Let's do it, and let's recycle more.

Green: Feed me more too, and I'll tell you more great things about composting.

Zero Waste is an international movement

San Francisco is a leader in the pursuit of Zero Waste, and other cities and countries are studying our recycling policies and programs in an effort to better manage waste and its effects on the environment.

San Francisco aims to achieve Zero Waste, to send next to nothing to landfill, by 2020. Seattle and Portland are making similar pushes, and in May the City of Minneapolis passed a Zero Waste goal.

Nearly every month a delegation from another large city in the United States or from another country comes to San Francisco to see our recycling programs firsthand. The concept of Zero Waste is also being discussed in New York City, London, Vancouver, and Israel.

Romauno, a leading TV station based in Italy, sent a crew to San Francisco earlier this year to document our city's efforts to achieve Zero. Reporter Fabio Esposito's 39-minute profile aired on May 23 and can be seen on YouTube. Complément d'enquête, a French news program modeled after 60 Minutes, sent a crew to San Francisco last year and dedicated an entire show to "poubelles un monde sans déchet" (a world without waste bins).

Zero Waste Europe, an independent initiative bringing together organizations and

municipalities committed to eliminating waste, hosted a conference in Paris in February to advance the platform. More than 400 people from 15 countries attended. Two delegations from France visited San Francisco this spring. One made the journey to Jepson Prairie Organics, a Recology compost facility outside Vacaville, which turns food scraps and plant cuttings collected from city residences and businesses into nutrient-rich compost.

And on May 28, *Le Monde*, the largest newspaper in France, published a feature story on San Francisco's Zero Waste initiative and posted the report, a sidebar story, and a slide show on LeMonde.fr.

San Franciscans have embraced recycling and composting and have taken additional steps to make further progress toward our goal of Zero. Every effort, no matter how small, has multiple benefits — it keeps materials out of landfills, saves resources including water, and supports green jobs.

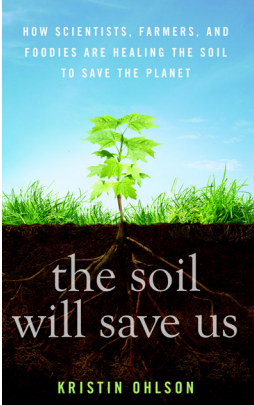
People around the world increasingly understand that everyone must help protect the environment by reducing the amount of waste we produce and recycling as much as possible. Thank you for helping make it happen.



Nice to know

New book

The Soil Will Save Us by Kristin Ohlson emphasizes composting to return carbon where it belongs — in topsoil. Soil, Ohlson writes, is “the foundation of all agricultural life.”



What is the best way to feed soil? Apply compost. Ohlson writes about small farmers who call themselves soil farmers, microbe farmers, and even carbon farmers because they know carbon makes “their soils richer, moister, and darker.” Her book, which bears the subtitle “How Scientists, Farmers, and Foodies Are Healing the Soil to Save the Planet,” features comments from experts who

say this kind of farming can accelerate “removal of carbon from the atmosphere via photosynthesis.”

That’s good stuff we can all support. Start today. Please place all food scraps, plant cuttings, and food-soiled paper in your green bin, and we will turn it into compost that is applied to local farms, orchards, and vineyards.

Debris boxes for larger jobs

We offer a full complement of debris boxes and professional pick up and delivery service for all kinds of construction, demolition, and remodeling projects.

And we recycle the contents at our construction recycling facility in San Francisco. For details, go to [DebrisBoxRental.com](https://www.debrisboxrental.com) and click on “Order Debris Box” or call 1-888-404-4008.



Bin-by-the-day

Recology can deliver 2- to 6-cubic yard metal bins to customers doing small construction, remodeling, or clean out projects. Call 1-888-404-4008 and ask about our bin-by-the-day service.

Sign up for invites to environmental films

Recology is hosting showings of environmental films for your enlightenment and enjoyment. Last year, Recology and Mayor Ed Lee co-hosted a screening of *Trashed*, a documentary featuring Jeremy Irons. This year we hosted *Growing Cities*, a film about urban farming in America, and *Waste Land*, a feature film which won more than 50 awards internationally.

To be alerted to future screenings, go to [RecologySF.com](https://www.RecologySF.com) and sign up to receive “email updates.” Look for the picture of the smart phone on the right-hand side of the homepage.



PHOTO: VIK MUNIZ



Recycling equals jobs

Several large cities in America are opening new recycling plants. Recent studies say we can create 1.5 million new jobs nationally if we all recycle 75 percent of our discards.

Here is the bottom line: Recycling creates far more jobs than landfilling or incineration. So let’s all recycle more of our discards. It saves resources and helps create green jobs — local, permanent jobs.

RecycleMyJunk.com

San Francisco residents can schedule a special pickup for large or bulky items at no additional cost. Go to [RecycleMyJunk.com](https://www.RecycleMyJunk.com) for program guidelines.

Lifeline rates for eligible customers

Discounted refuse rates are available to low-income households that meet certain requirements. The discounts, known as Lifeline Rates, are based on the number of persons per household and annual gross income. Please see the accompanying chart for eligibility levels.

Lifeline Rates are approved by the City’s Refuse Collection and Disposal Rate Board. All Recology customers get the same high-quality garbage collection and recycling service regardless of what they pay.

In addition to income eligibility, the address on the applications must be where the household lives for more than half the year (not the second home), and the applicant cannot be claimed on another person’s income tax return. For complete details and to get a Lifeline Rate application, go to [RecologySF.com/residentialRates.htm](https://www.RecologySF.com/residentialRates.htm) or call 330-1300.

The new rate will appear on your next bill after the completed application is received and your eligibility is confirmed.

No. of persons living in your home	Total gross annual household income (all sources)
1 or 2	\$23,595 or less
3	\$29,685 or less
4	\$35,775 or less
More than 4	Add \$6,090 for each additional person

32-gallon Trash (black bin)	\$19.23
32-gallon Recycling (blue)	1.53
32-gallon Composting (green)	1.53
Base Charge per dwelling unit	3.83
Projected monthly Lifeline bill	\$26.12

RecologySF.com

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

Recycling, compost, and trash collection:
Recology Sunset Scavenger 330-1300
Recology Golden Gate 626-4000

Debris Box Service
888-404-4008

RecycleMyJunk.com
330-1300

