

A key to protecting the environment

New ads encourage San Franciscans to place **all** old food in compost collection bins

San Francisco residents and businesses are doing a good job composting vegetable peelings and coffee grounds in their green curbside collection bins. Still, an analysis of the trash we place in our black bins reveals a surprising fact: 50 percent of those discards could be composted.

To design more effective recycling programs, the materials people in San Francisco toss in trash bins are periodically categorized. In that process we sort black bin trash loads picked up by neighborhood collection trucks. Every trash load we examined in conducting this research included food waste in plastic wrap or containers, such as moldy or stale bread.

Material placed in a black trash bin does not get sorted and ends up going straight to landfill. Think of black trash bins as portals to landfills and, before tossing anything compostable or recyclable, always look for and use blue and green compost bins.

To highlight the issue and encourage San Franciscans to compost more of their discards, Recology designed new ads featuring examples of old food discovered in many trash loads. One ad pictures decaying strawberries in their plastic container, another spotlights chicken bones in a take-out box.

Our refrigerators are good hunting grounds for forgotten food. Other examples include expired lunch meat in plastic wrap and cheese too moldy to eat in a plastic bag.



Shake it out

Please be sure to shake old food from plastic bags, containers, and tubs into your kitchen compost pail or green bin. The strawberry ad shows someone shaking the now inedible fruit out of a plastic clamshell container and into a green bin. The chicken bone ad shows someone dumping the bones out of a black plastic tub. And please remember to recycle those plastic containers by putting them in the blue bin.

If you have slimy lettuce in a plastic bag, shake the bag so the lettuce, but not the plastic bag, falls into your compost collection bin and then toss the dirty plastic bag in the black trash bin.

Fear not old foods in your refrigerator – compost them! The microorganisms in compost love old food, including foods containing fats and oils as they are sources of protein. You can also compost soiled paper, such as used paper napkins, together with old food and plant cuttings to help absorb moisture and reduce potential odors in your green bin.

Check 'em out

Look for the new compost ads on Recology trucks and at other venues. We have posted downloadable PDFs of the ads at RecologySF.com. We encourage managers of apartment buildings and commercial spaces to print out the ads and post them at recycling stations within the properties they manage.

Doing so will give your residents and customers new encouragement to compost old food and reduce landfill disposal.

San Francisco continues to increase composting and send less to landfill. We now collect 700 tons of compostable material a day in our city. By increasing composting we can more than double that tonnage and send less to landfill.

Did you know?

It's super easy for S.F. residents to recycle household batteries

San Francisco residents are encouraged to place used household batteries, such as AA, AAA, C- and D-sized batteries, in a clear, sealable plastic bag and to put the bag on top of their black trash bins.

Your Recology garbage-and-recycling collector will pick up the bag and toss it in a bucket designated for used batteries on the side of his or her route collection truck.

We ship used batteries to companies that take them apart and recycle the pieces.

S.F. residents can recycle small lithium batteries through this program, but must place tape over the ends of lithium batteries to prevent fires.

This program is not for computer, car, motorcycle, or large-appliance 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; we will exchange your full bucket for an empty one and recycle the old household batteries.





RECYCLE
COMPOST

composting = healthy soil = healthy food = healthy you

Nice to know

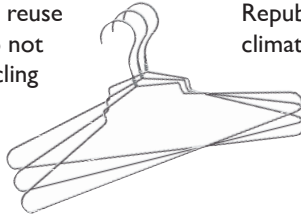
Stay updated about your service:

Sign up to receive occasional email messages about holiday collection schedules, environmental film screenings, compost giveaways, special pickups, and brief articles and recycling tips. Register for Nice-to-Know updates at RecologySF.com.



How do you recycle wire hangers?

You don't. You take them back next time you go to the dry cleaners. That's reuse which is even better than recycling. Please do not put wire or plastic hangers in your blue recycling bin; hangers jam equipment at the recycling plant. Recycling bins are for bottles, cans, paper, cardboard, and hard plastics, such as plastic cups and molded plastic packaging.



Paperless billing:

You can pay your bill online in just a few simple steps. With our E-BillPay service you can pay your bill with a credit card or through your checking or savings account. Utilizing this service, allows you to receive, review and pay your bill automatically. Register for E-BillPay at RecologySF.com.

Marin Carbon Project:

As reported in the S.F. Chronicle on Oct. 19, applying compost to range lands returns carbon to soil. The same is true for applying compost to farms, orchards, and vineyards. The finding, the Chronicle reported, "has captured the attention of the White House, the Brown administration, the city of San Francisco, officials in Brazil and China, and even House Republicans, who may not believe in climate change but like the idea that 'carbon farming' could mean profits for ranchers."



What are good sources for recycling guidelines?

The stickers on the lids of your bins and these websites:

- RecologySF.com
- SFEnvironment.org
- WhatBin.com
- SFHazWaste.com

Big reasons to recycle

One glass bottle. One sheet of paper. Do we toss them in a garbage can because we no longer want the bottle or the paper, or do we put these items in recycling bins?

Collectively, people around the globe face the choice – recycle or trash – billions of times every day. Here are some of the reasons our communities should provide more options to recycle and why we all should utilize those opportunities:

- Recycling saves resources, including water and energy.
- Recycling keeps materials out of landfills and incinerators.
- Recycling creates 10 times more jobs than landfilling or incineration.

Here is another big reason to recycle:

- Recycling avoids upstream environmental impacts, including pollution, which affect everyone.

Making recycled materials such as paper, plastic, glass, and metals available to manufacturers reduces industry's need to extract, process, and refine timber, crude oil, and ores. By reducing extraction of natural resources we help protect natural habitats and biodiversity. We also help reduce pollution created by extracting and transporting raw materials.

Protecting land

Unlike mining of virgin ores, recycling metals does not involve cutting open vast tracks of land, constructing huge mechanical land-movers that churn up the earth, or contaminating air, rivers, lakes, and streams. Recycling aims to reduce these impacts and avoids creating abandoned mines and their associated environmental problems, an issue in every state in America.

Saving energy

Recycling newsprint results in an almost 40 percent reduction in total energy demand compared with virgin fiber use. Steel produced from secondary material uses about 60 percent less energy. Recycled aluminum provides a whopping 94 percent reduction in energy use compared with making aluminum from virgin ore.

Reducing toxic waste

Providing recycled paper to paper mills instead of making paper from virgin timber reduces both air and water pollution. The National Resources Defense Council reports processing stands of timber into printable paper "requires an intensive chemical and mechanical effort after a tree is harvested." In contrast, modern newsprint recycling mills produce far less waste and, according to the NRDC, can be designed so they produce no toxic materials.



Saving water

By recycling steel, we save 40 percent of the water needed to manufacture steel from ore. By recycling glass, we achieve a 50 percent water savings. Paper manufacturing is one of the most water intensive industries in the world. By recycling paper, we help paper mills reduce their water use by up to 60 percent.

RECOLOGYSF.com

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

Useful
Telephone
Numbers

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

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Recology
Sunset Scavenger
Golden Gate
WASTE ZERO