



Bless the farms that made it to harvest

By composting at the curb, city residents and businesses help local farms grow healthy food and save water

Bravo to farmers who despite the drought continued to grow the foods that feed us.

The double-whammy of less rainfall and blazing hot temperatures can hinder microbial activity, the life in the topsoil that helps grow crops.

Fortunately, despite unusually challenging conditions, many farms are employing methods that nurture soil health and sustain crops, including applying compost. And increasingly more residents and businesses are fully participating in curbside composting collection programs that send food scraps and yard trimmings, such as sticks and leaves, back to farms as finished compost.

San Francisco and Recology pioneered curbside food scrap collection for composting in 1996. Now cities up and down California are implementing curbside composting to comply with SB 1383, a new state law requiring municipalities to reduce the amount of compostable material they send to landfills by 75 percent.

For 15 years, Matthew Englehart of Be Love Farm in Vacaville has applied compost made from materials collected in San Francisco and other Northern California communities. Englehart says residents and businesses that participate in composting programs help local farms improve soil health and maintain soil moisture, which is especially important in times of drought.

“All of us can have a compost bin. All of us can bring more life, more fertility to this planet,” Englehart says.

The Rodale Institute reports that farms using regenerative farming techniques, such as applying compost, can grow up to 40 percent more food during droughts compared to conventional farming (rodaleinstitute.org).



High-quality compost returns nutrients to the soil, which nurtures plant growth.



Many California farmers apply compost to boost soil fertility and help retain moisture in the root zone of their crops. This technique helped local farms get to harvest in 2022, the third year of the drought.

Englehart says feed the microbial colonies in topsoil with compost and the microbes will feed the plants. “That will create nutrient-dense food, and you

use less water”

Every time people participate in curbside composting collection programs, they help achieve significant benefits.

“California will be a more resilient food system. It will be a more resilient economy because the soil will be in much better shape,” says Englehart. “Wake up. Compost.” ■



HOLIDAY SERVICE REMINDERS

Our collection crews work on Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas and New Year’s both fall on Sundays, so customers will receive service on their regular collection days this holiday season.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION RUNS JAN. 2–13



Please place trees curbside the night before your collection day. Christmas trees will be picked up by a dedicated truck on your regular service day.

Please remove all plastic bags, lights, decorations, tinsel, and stands. If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, it must be cut in half.

Place loose recyclables in the blue bin

When recycling, place recyclables loose in your blue bin.

Please **do not** place your bottles, cans, and plastic containers in plastic bags.

Recycling workers cannot see inside plastic bags, which come in many colors. And with 500 tons of blue bin recycling to sort and bale every day, workers cannot stop, pick up, and shake out plastic bags containing recyclables.

Paper mills and other manufacturers that buy bales of recycled materials reject loads with more than 1 percent impurities. Therefore, recycling workers must pull anything that looks like trash off the sorting line.



We want to make sure any materials that can be recycled get sorted and baled. In addition to employing more recycling workers, San Francisco has invested in hi-tech recycling equipment such as optical and robotic

sorters that is engineered to help sort loose recyclables.

So, when you place loose recyclables in the blue bin, rest assured they will get sorted and be recycled.

TWO MORE TIPS

Please also remember to shake liquids out of any beverage containers. A half-full bottle of soda can ruin a lot of recycled paper.

To help protect the integrity of recycled paper so mills will accept it, it's also important to keep food scraps out of blue recycling bins.

Please shake any food scraps in containers into your green curbside composting collection bin. ■

Schedule a bulky item pickup today

Bulky Item Recycling (BIR) service is an easy way to discard broken TVs, damaged furniture, and other worn-out things too big for your recycling bin.

Just go to [Recology.com](https://www.recology.com) or the [Recology App](#) for program details and to make an appointment.

The BIR program is part of the residential collection service provided by Recology, so there is no additional cost.

When you book a BIR pickup, Recology sorts the materials for recycling. For example, metal goes to a foundry, electronics go to firms specializing in e-waste, and cardboard goes to a paper mill.

If furniture is in good condition, consider donating it to a thrift store or via online platforms such as NextDoor's marketplace, Craigslist, Facebook groups, or Trash Nothing.



LOW-INCOME RATES AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS

San Francisco households that qualify to participate in PG&E's low-income rate program, CARE, may also receive a 25 percent discount on recycling and trash collection.

Households receiving premium service or accounts with more than one unit are ineligible for this program.

To confirm your qualification, simply email or mail a copy of the first page of your current PG&E bill showing participation in the CARE program. The name and address on your PG&E account must match the

name and address on your Recology account, and you may be asked to verify annually.

Email: CustomerService@RecologySF.com

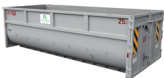
Recology's mailing address: **250 Executive Park Blvd., Suite 2100 San Francisco, CA 94134**



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欲線上以英文、西班牙文與中文閱讀我們的電子報，請至 [Recology.com/SFNewsletter](https://www.recology.com/SFNewsletter)。

Check us out on social media for quick tips, event info, and recycling news:

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