

Better at the Bin



Recology Sunset Scavenger and Recology Golden Gate, your local recycling companies | Recycle | Compost July–September 2024

INNOVATION

SF tests America's first hydrogen fuel cell refuse truck

In the quest to help protect the environment, San Francisco is once again leading the nation in testing new approaches and equipment.

Recology launched a pilot program this summer to test North America's first hydrogen fuel cell-powered electric refuse collection truck. This trial aims to identify collection vehicles that meet zero-emissions standards and have the power required to transport heavy loads.

New Way, an American refuse truck body manufacturer, and Hyzon, a U.S.-based technology developer, designed and built the hydrogen fuel cell collection truck. After piloting this unique truck in San Francisco, Recology will test it in other Bay Area cities.

San Francisco and Recology collaborate to identify solutions to improve resource recovery and lessen our environmental footprints.



In 2016, we installed the first three Pellenc ST optical sorters in North America to boost material recovery inside Recycle Central. In 2019, Recology committed to reducing our use of conventional fossil fuels. We reached our goal of powering our fleet with 90 percent renewable or alternative energy sources in 2023.

We are proud that San Francisco is testing this new technology.

"In hitting this mark, we achieved one of the most ambitious fleet goals in our industry," said Recology CEO Sal Coniglio.

Recology operates several electric vehicles, including the first electric Class 8 rear-load collection trucks deployed in the United States. Introducing the nation's first hydrogen fuel cell collection truck is another notable effort, and we are proud that San Francisco is the first city in North America to test this new technology for refuse collection trucks.

As your collection and recycling company, Recology strives to lead our field in helping to protect the environment. That commitment will continue to include testing and implementing alternative fuel collection trucks as we transition our fleet to zero-emission vehicles per California's Advanced Clean Fleets requirements. ■

We can help with big jobs



CONTACT US:

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Recology has a selection of debris boxes for construction and demolition jobs and big cleanouts. Let our Customer Service team know what you need, and we will deliver the box for the job right where you want it. When it's full, we'll pick it up and recycle the contents at our local state-of-the-art facility.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- 9- to 40-cubic yard boxes.
- Same-day service options.
- We recycle the contents at our S.F. material recovery facility, helping customers comply with the City's C&D Recycling Ordinance.



Our customer service staff is here to help. Email us at CustomerService@RecologySF.com

How recycled materials get repurposed



The bottles, cans, paper, cardboard, and plastic containers customers recycle in the blue bin program go to Recycle Central, the Recology recycling plant on San Francisco's Pier 96.

Inside the 200,000-square-foot facility, modern recycling equipment assists workers in sorting recyclables. This equipment includes but is not limited to loaders, drum feeders, conveyor belts, disc screens, optical and robotic sorters, magnets, and high-density balers. Hand sorting and other work performed by Recology employees are also essential to the process.

In 2018, China restricted some imported recycled materials and banned others, such as plastics. In



response, Recology bolstered domestic partnerships, identified alternative markets, and worked closely with municipalities to keep community recycling programs going.

At the same time, Recology invested millions of dollars in recycling infrastructure to improve material sorting and meet the requirements set by mills for high-quality recycled materials. Amounts and types of shipments of recycled materials vary based on a number of factors, including demand from specific mills.

In 2023, Recology shipped 2,600 tons of metals to mills to make new products.

Last year, Recycle Central shipped the following materials to mills: 40,000 tons of cardboard, 27,000 tons of paper, 20,000 tons of glass, 4,000 tons of plastics, and 2,600 tons of metals.

Mills buy recycled materials to make new products. Using as much of these feedstocks as possible helps mills get the full value of the recovered materials they utilize in manufacturing. By placing these materials in your blue recycling bin, you help complete a true closed loop cycle.

Many of the customers mills serve actively promote the recycled content of the finished products they sell, so mills utilize recycled materials to meet their customers' standards as well.

Recology commodities managers visit mills on an ad hoc basis to tour facilities and see firsthand how materials get repurposed. Information on where recycled materials from San Francisco go is available at SFRecycles.org/WhereRecyclablesGo.

PREVENT FIRES

Tape and bag lithium batteries

Household lithium batteries power car clickers, wireless speakers, and other gadgets. When lithium batteries run down, we replace them and return to action. But what should we do with the old ones?

Recycle them, along with other household batteries, but be sure to use clear tape on the contact points.

Old household lithium batteries may no longer have the power to run devices, but they can still release energy through their contact points.

Lithium batteries should never be placed in recycling or trash bins because they can cause fires in collection trucks and sorting facilities, potentially harming recycling workers.

Here is how to recycle household lithium batteries:

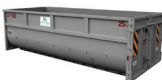
1. Tape their contact points.
2. Put household and taped lithium batteries in a clear plastic bag and seal it shut.
3. Place the bag on top of your landfill bin. We'll collect the bag, sort the batteries, and ship them to a company specializing in battery recycling.



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

@recology

@recologysf



Debris Box Dept.
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