



## DRIVER OF THE YEAR Seven SF trash haulers win national awards



**LUIS GONZALEZ**

**ROLL-OFF WINNER**  
Recology Golden Gate



**MELVIN MELLO III**

**SAFETY SENSITIVE WINNER**  
Recology San Francisco

### Honorable Mention Awardees



**DAVID BARBAGELATA**

Recology Sunset Scavenger  
**RESIDENTIAL**



**MIKE BURIAN**

Recology San Francisco  
**SAFETY SENSITIVE**



**QUINCY BUNDAGE**

Recology Sunset Scavenger  
**COMMERCIAL**



**ROD MCALAVEY**

Recology San Francisco  
**SAFETY SENSITIVE**



**RIGOBERTO LOPEZ**

Recology Sunset Scavenger  
**ROLL-OFF**

We are proud to report that seven Recology drivers won top awards in the highly competitive Driver of the Year competition coordinated by the National Waste & Recycling Association.

Two San Francisco drivers won first-place awards, and five received honorable mention citations in their respective categories — Residential, Commercial, Roll-off, and Safety Sensitive.

Garbage and recycling companies from every state submit applications for their best drivers. Key criteria include years of service, difficulty of driving assignment, and safety record. Customer and community service are also significant factors.

Driving big trucks to collect and transport San Francisco’s refuse, recycling, and curbside composting

presents multiple challenges — steep hills, narrow streets, and many motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists competing for the same space.

The contest is like the Oscars for refuse collectors and haulers throughout the nation who perform tough and dirty jobs and help keep our cities clean and green.

For one driver to reach the top of the mountain is a true achievement. For seven San Francisco drivers to win awards in one year is remarkable. Collectively, the local winners have served our city for more than 200 years.

“The whole city is beautiful, and trash collectors play an important role,” says Luis Gonzalez, who’s been a Recology driver for 45 years. “We have to do the best we can for the customer.”

“It’s so exciting to see the people who help keep our city clean get recognized at the national level!” says San Francisco resident Tracy Zinder. “San Francisco is such a tricky place to navigate, and the refuse collectors do an amazing job year-round. Congrats to all the winners; it’s well deserved!”

Recology driver Rigoberto Lopez, 40 years on the job, bases his success on a strong commitment to customer service. “You have a job to do; you have to do it,” he says.

Both Luis and Rigoberto say everyone in San Francisco shares in the seven winners’ success. “If one of us wins, we all win,” Rigoberto says.

Winners of NWRA’s Driver of the Year competition will be honored at Waste Expo 2025, the industry’s largest conference, in Las Vegas on May 5. ■



Our customer service staff is here to help.  
Email us at [customerservice@recologysf.com](mailto:customerservice@recologysf.com)

# COMPOST 堆肥 COMPOSTAR

廚餘食物  
**Food scraps**  
Restos de comida



沾有食物殘渣的紙容器  
**Food-soiled paper containers**  
Contenedores de papel con restos de comida



餐巾紙和擦手紙  
**Napkins and paper towels**  
Servilletas y toallas de papel



植物  
**Plants**  
Plantas



可有機分解的產品  
**Compostable products**  
Artículos compostables



物品必須標有 “Compostable”  
**Must be labeled “Compostable”**  
El artículo debe estar rotulado como “Compostable”



不收塑膠袋  
**No plastic bags**  
No se aceptan bolsas de plástico



SAN FRANCISCO  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
DEPARTMENT

 [sfrecycles.org](https://sfrecycles.org)

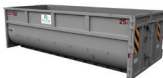
  
**Recology**  
WASTE ZERO

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