

# Better at the Bin



Recology Sunset Scavenger and Recology Golden Gate, your local recycling companies | Recycle | Compost July–September 2025



## Clean, loose, dry

At community presentations about recycling, San Francisco residents often ask: “How clean do the jars and other items I toss in my recycling bins need to be?”

The answer is “reasonably clean.”

Please shake out your food containers and empty all liquids from bottles and cans.

Unfortunately, we sometimes see half-filled plastic bottles of soda tossed in with other recyclables. When a bottle containing liquid gets compacted — whether in a recycling collection truck or at Recycle Central, the sorting facility we operate on Pier 96 — the liquid can spoil recycled paper, making it impossible to sort and bale.

The mills that receive bales of recycled paper demand clean and dry materials.

If empty jars contain food remnants, please rinse them and let them drain before tossing them in your recycling. Or, put them in the dishwasher with your regular load.

And, **please do not bag** your recyclables. A bag can obscure the contents, get tangled, and jam equipment.



Recology collects and sorts more than 400 tons of mixed recyclables daily in San Francisco. Recyclables must be loose, not bagged, to ensure proper separation inside the recycling plant.

When loose recyclables travel on conveyor belts inside the plant, recycling workers and modern equipment separate the different types of materials. A spinning magnet, for example, picks up steel cans and directs them to a high-density baler. Optical sorters look for plastic bottles and separate them by type.

A good rule of thumb: clean, loose, and dry. That’s a good thought to remember when it comes to recycling. It will help ensure the materials you toss in your blue bin get recycled. ■

## Pioneering art program marks 35 years

The Recology Artist in Residence (AIR) Program commemorates 35 years of making art from reclaimed materials by partnering with Minnesota Street Project (MSP) for a special exhibition.

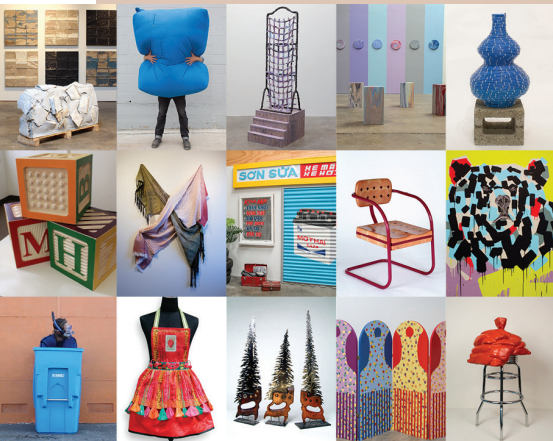
highlighting one of the Bay Area’s most beloved residency programs.

Founded in 1990, the AIR Program, a part of the Recology Sustainability Education Program, offers artists a four-month residency with access to studio space, a stipend, and materials sourced from the Recology Public Reuse and Recycling Area. Artists engage thousands of people annually through tours, exhibitions, and educational programs.

With over 190 professional and 60 student artists supported over the past 35 years, the AIR Program continues to spark dialogue about sustainability and encourage the conservation of natural resources and the reduction of waste.

Partnering with MSP, an esteemed hub for contemporary art and a vital force in San Francisco’s creative community,

strengthens the shared commitment to community building, supporting artists and promoting cultural dialogue. ■



This exhibition includes artwork made by Recology artists-in-residence and a screening of videos and films

### YOU’RE INVITED

**Exhibition Dates:**  
July 23 – August 30

**Location:** MSP Atrium,  
Gallery 107, Media Room  
1275 Minnesota St.  
11 AM – 5 PM  
Tuesday – Saturday

**Opening Event:** 6 – 8 PM,  
Saturday, August 2

**Closing:** 6 – 8 PM,  
August 28, 7 PM  
performance by artist  
Jeremy Rourke

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# Keeping it clean

On Saturday, June 21, a cool and sunny morning, volunteers from the Golden State Warriors, Refuse Refuse, and Recology cleaned up parts of Ocean Beach, Golden Gate Park, and Richmond District neighborhood streets in the outer avenues.

About 75 volunteers, including Recology employees and their family members, organized into small teams. The teams dispersed to different areas and picked up trash.

We collected potato chip bags, coffee cups and lids, cigarette butts, cans, and many forms of single-use plastic such as bags, water bottles, caps, and utensils.

**Bravo to all who do this important community service. Your efforts are helping clean up our city.**

Unexpected items included discarded shoes and socks, paper packaging, pens, business cards, and metal lids.

Residents and tourists enjoying the beach, parks, and neighborhood thanked us for our efforts.

In the wake of COVID, many people have picked up litter in San Francisco. It is satisfying to help clean up areas we all want to enjoy.

Bravo to all who do this important community service. Your efforts are helping clean up our city. Let’s keep the momentum going and do more of this good work together. ■

## Progress achieved together

Recology serves San Francisco and many other environmentally-minded cities on the West Coast. As your garbage, recycling, and composting collection company, we are proud to release our corporate-wide **2025 Sustainability Update.**

Together with our customers and the cities we serve, we are making real progress advancing programs that help protect the environment. The Sustainability Update notes the following milestones achieved in calendar year 2024:

- ➔ 1.5 million tons of recyclable and compostable materials processed.
- ➔ 45% more materials recovered, by weight, than discarded in Recology landfills.
- ➔ 1.7 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions avoided through composting and recycling – more than 10 times the total emissions produced through our operations.

In 2024, we powered our facilities with 93% renewable or carbon-free electricity and our vehicles and equipment with 91% renewable or alternative fuels.

Looking ahead, here are our 2028 sustainability targets:

- ➔ Power Recology facilities with 100% renewable or carbon-free electricity.
- ➔ Use 95% renewable or alternative fuels for Recology vehicles and equipment.
- ➔ Use 75% of collected landfill-gas to generate renewable energy.

To read the full Sustainability Update and learn more about these and other innovative programs, go to [recology.com](https://recology.com). ■

**The green bin is key to our successful composting collection program.**

