



DO IT RIGHT

Get colorful in the new year

Your curbside collection is no longer just a gray area. Recology Butte Colusa Counties provides color-coded 3-cart service for all your discards.



Carts are also labeled to help you know what goes inside:

- **Gray is for landfill** — single-use plastic, PPE, diapers, and pet waste.
- **Blue is for recycling** — glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, and rigid plastics, such as bottles and jugs.
- **Green is for organics** — food scraps, yard trimmings, and food-soiled paper.

Sorting your discards and having the right color cart is required by law.

It also helps prevent confusion for residents and ensures that Recology drivers service the correct containers as different trucks pick up different materials.

If your recycling or organics cart is gray, contact us to request a properly colored and labeled cart at no additional cost. If you have yet to begin organics services and do not have a waiver from the City of Chico, contact rbccwastezero@recology.com to get started.

THE SCRUNCHY TRUTH ABOUT PLASTIC RECYCLING

Unsure if that chip bag or snack wrapper should be recycled? Give your plastics the Scrunch Test.

If you scrunch a plastic item in your hand and it crinkles into a ball shape, it cannot be recycled. Flimsy plastics belong in your gray landfill cart.

Rigid plastics, such as water bottles, milk jugs, and yogurt/sour cream tubs, are recyclable. Just remember that recyclable containers should be empty, clean, and dry when placed in your blue cart.

Remember: If plastic crinkles, toss it out. If it bounces back, recycle away!



SHARE THE NEWS!

Recology publishes quarterly newsletters that are printed and mailed with billing statements, which are typically sent to the accounting or billing contact on file. We encourage business and property owners to pass them on to on-site managers and tenants.

Each newsletter includes tips on proper recycling, disposal methods for household hazardous waste, and guidance on handling hard-to-recycle items. This is important information that residents and employees should be aware of to maintain property compliance and minimize contamination.

Sharing the newsletter helps promote better recycling habits and supports a cleaner, more informed community.



GOOD GREEN HABITS



ANNUAL SB 1383 REQUIREMENTS

- All businesses must subscribe to recycling, garbage, and compost collection.
- Place the correct materials into the correct collection containers. Ongoing contamination monitoring will be required.
- Place color-coded and labeled recycling and compost bins next to all garbage bins (not required in restrooms).
- Business owners are required to train all employees, tenants, and contractors on the new collection requirements within 14 days of hiring or move-in and keep a record.



ALL HAIL THE KITCHEN PAIL

Business owners and multi-family property managers can help employees and tenants participate in the green organics cart program by educating them about the benefits of using a receptacle in the kitchen for food scraps.

Recology offers free, on-site training and sorting guides for residential and commercial customers.

To collect food scraps at your business:

- Put food scraps and plate scrapings into the container loosely or line it with a paper bag.
- If using a plastic bag to line the kitchen container, you must empty the contents directly into your green cart and dispose of the plastic bag in the landfill cart.
- Use takeout containers made of cardboard or paper, and utensils made of natural fiber. Those can be composted. Be sure containers are not lined or coated with plastic.

The City offers free indoor collection containers, while supplies last, to multi-family properties and businesses. Property managers are required to make sure all residents know where their complex's recycling, organics, and garbage containers are located on the property.

THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR ORGANICS BIN

Separating out organics helps reduce the amount that ends up in landfills, which can help:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Extend landfill capacity.
- Improve soil quality.
- Prevent water and soil contamination.

Ensure all staff are aware of what items should be placed in the organics cart:

- **Acceptable:** Food scraps, food-soiled paper, grass/weed clippings, shrub/tree prunings (under 4" diameter), leaves, plants, and flowers.
- **Not Acceptable:** Household garbage, plastic bags, dirt/rocks, overfilled carts (lids must close).

NO PLASTIC BAGS IN GREEN CART

Plastic bags, including bioplastics and compostable bags, are made from polyethylene and, can take up to 1,000 years to fully break down in the soil. Recology's mixed organics processes are not built to accommodate these types of plastics.

Mixed organics collected in the City of Chico are dumped at Oroville Transfer Station, transferred to Recology Ostrom Organics in Wheatland, CA, and made into nutrient-rich compost. Plastics do not fully degrade in this process, so they can contaminate the finished compost, making it undesirable for use on farms.

Remember, never put pet waste in the organics container. That belongs in the landfill only.

Although items may be marked with recycling chasing arrows, certified as bio-based or compostable, or signed as "green" or compostable, they cannot be handled by Recology Butte Colusa Counties and are considered contaminants.



NEVER PLACE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR LANDFILL BIN

- Sharps and Medication
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Flammables, Pesticides, or Herbicides
- Electronic Waste

Hazardous waste disposal drop-off:
Recology Butte Colusa Counties
2720 South Fifth Avenue, Oroville 95965
9 AM – 2 PM first & third Fridays of the month