



THE CONNECTION

Keeping Us Connected to the Communities We Serve



Every year, Recology South Valley recognizes a local business that does a great job reducing waste and increasing recycling and composting. We're proud to announce that the **2026 Gilroy Business Recycler of the Year** is:

CAMINO COFFEE

(left to right) Ethan Hunt, Kyle Santos, Frank Oliver, Alexander Kane, Josue Diaz

When Frank Oliver opened Camino Coffee two years ago, he quickly realized that great coffee could be paired with stewardship.

The café, located at 7300 Monterey Road in a former gas station, has become a popular gathering spot and an example of integrating composting and recycling into a business.

Along with specialty brews and locally sourced pastries, Camino Coffee offers reusable cups for sit-down customers and special iced-drink lids that eliminate plastic straws.

Camino Coffee partnered with the Recology Waste Zero team to design and implement an effective in-store color-coded sorting system, including signage that shows which items go in each bin — blue for recycling, green for compostables, and gray for garbage.

"Mistakes happen here and there, but we keep our members accountable," said Manager Kyle Santos, who trains staff.

This teamwork is key to the shop's compliance with state law SB 1383, which requires separating food scraps

and other compostables for collection. The material is diverted from landfills and turned into nutrient-rich compost.

"It's conditioning. Once you get it, it's like tying your shoes," said Frank about creating the sorting habit.

Bravo to Camino Coffee for its dedication to recycling and composting.

Call Recology at **408.842.3358** to have a Waste Zero Specialist help your business.

TWO USEFUL PROGRAMS FOR GILROY RESIDENTS

CALL FOR CURBSIDE BULKY ITEM COLLECTIONS

Residential customers with cart service receive two FREE curbside Bulky Item Collections per year. Choose one of the following:

Option 1 — UP TO 12 32-gallon garbage bags. All items must be bagged, boxed, or bundled; no loose items. This equals 2 cubic yards (3ft x 3ft x 6ft) of materials.

Option 2 — 2 ITEMS such as appliances, furniture, or electronics. A mattress/box spring set counts as 1 item. Items must be less than 6 feet long, less than 200 pounds, and manageable by one person.

No sharp objects, glass, automotive parts, dirt, rock, stumps, large limbs, painted/treated wood, hazardous waste, or construction/demolition debris. Call **408.842.3358** to schedule your collection.

Bulky Item Collection is available to apartment complexes. If you own or manage an apartment complex, contact Customer Service and learn how to take advantage of this FREE program.

MATTRESS DROP-OFF EVENTS

Residents have two opportunities to recycle mattresses and box springs for FREE. No appointment necessary.



WHEN: April 25 and October 24, 9 AM – 12 PM.

WHERE: Recology South Valley, 1351 Pacheco Pass Hwy, Gilroy 95020.

BRING: You must show a recent Recology bill and ID as proof of Gilroy residency.

Only mattresses and box springs (any size) will be accepted during these events.

There will be a charge to recycle mattresses and box springs if they are taken to the San Martin Transfer Station.

CONTACT US!

Se Habla Español

Recology South Valley
1351 Pacheco Pass Hwy
Gilroy, CA 95020

408.842.3358
recology.com/southvalley
facebook.com/recologysouthvalley

OTHER RESOURCES

hhw.org
whatbin.com
reducewaste.org

HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS

Learn how to compost at home by attending a free Community Composting Workshop organized by the University of California Cooperative Extension and the County of Santa Clara and taught by certified Master Composters.

2026 CLASS SCHEDULE

WORM COMPOSTING: May 2 in Gilroy. This workshop focuses on vermicomposting, which uses worms to break down food scraps. This is best for those living in multi-family residences or homes without many yard trimmings.

COMPOSTING BASICS: May 9 in Morgan Hill. This workshop will highlight using yard trimmings and food scraps to make compost.

Composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions and the finished product is fantastic for house plants, gardens, and landscaping.

Visit bit.ly/4jUBvSu or call **408.918.4640** for more details and registration. Participants must be 18 or older.



COMPOST GIVEAWAY

WHEN: Saturday, April 18, 8 AM – 12 PM
(while supplies last)

WHERE: Christmas Hill Park Ranch Site

WHAT: Get the equivalent of one 32-gallon can of compost and up to 2 cubic yards of wood chips. (Wood chips provided by the City of Gilroy.)

BRING: Your own shovel, gloves, and containers.

WHY: Using compost improves the fertility and health of soil by helping it retain water and preventing run-off. Wood chips improve weed control and moisture retention.

Whatbin.com has the answers you need

Are you ever stumped about what items go in your recycling, composting, or garbage carts? Recology has a webpage for that: [whatbin.com](https://www.whatbin.com).

It lets you know, without a doubt, what goes in which bin. You can even use it to test your knowledge. Do you know where to toss plastic bags? A greasy pizza box? Aseptic containers?

Find the answers on [whatbin.com](https://www.whatbin.com) and confidently use your curbside carts to help save precious resources, reduce greenhouse gases, and help our environment.

Materials such as paper, glass, and some metals and plastics are remanufactured and made into new products. Food scraps and yard trimmings are turned into nutrient-rich compost that helps farms nurture soil and grow healthy plants.



Bike lanes reminder

The City of Gilroy and the Gilroy Bicycle Pedestrian Commission would like to remind you to set your Recology bins curbside, not in bike lanes, on your collection day. Thank you!



**NEVER PLACE THESE ITEMS
IN YOUR GARBAGE CAN**

Sharps and Medication
CVS Pharmacy
408.842.0373

Fluorescent Lamps
Ace Hardware of Gilroy
408.847.5890

Household Hazardous
Waste and Electronic
Waste, Call 408.299.7300