

The Recology® RESOURCE

SANTA ROSA | SPRING 2020



Our climate is changing. According to the Scientific American, the last six years (2014 - 2019) have been the warmest in recorded history. The reality of climate change is especially apparent locally, with devastating wild fires becoming the new normal.

Did you know that compost can combat climate change? In the U.S., landfills are the third largest source of methane – a potent greenhouse gas. Composting your food scraps **prevents this material from producing methane in landfills.** The benefits don't stop there. Not only does compost help plants grow, but it also **stores carbon from the atmosphere in the soil.**

Participating in a compost program is as simple as placing your food scraps in your Recology green compost cart instead of your gray garbage cart at home. We also offer free kitchen compost pails for pick-up at our offices in Santa Rosa (3400 Standish Ave.) and Petaluma (1309 Dynamic St.). These pails make collecting food scraps in your kitchen a breeze!



Step 1: Put your food scraps in a pail in the kitchen.



Step 2: Empty your food scraps into your green bin at home or work.



Step 3: Recology will service your green bin and take your material to a compost facility!

DISPELLING THE MYTHS!

-  **YES! We do recycle plastics.**
While China & Southeast Asia have clamped down on what plastics they will accept, we have found markets for plastic containers as long as they are **clean and dry**.
-  **No one sorts the garbage.**
Everything you place in your garbage bin goes directly to the landfill. This is why it is important to **put your compostable and recyclable materials in the correct bin**.
-  **"Compostable" isn't always compostable.**
Plastics labeled "compostable" are not accepted at any of the compost facilities where we take your material.
"Bio Bags" are not accepted in residential compost.
-  **Symbols like this  do not always mean "recyclable".**
These symbols were created by the plastics industry to identify the resin in the material. #6 for example is most commonly seen in Styrofoam form, and is not accepted in our recycling program.



BULKY ITEM COLLECTION RECOLECCIÓN DE ARTÍCULOS VOLUMINOSOS



- ✓ **2 free pick-ups per year for residents**
2 recolecciones gratuitas por año para residentes
- ✓ **Set out approximately 3 cubic yards of material**
Ponga aproximadamente 3 yardas cúbicas de material
- ✓ **No liquid waste or hazardous materials**
No desechos líquidos ni materiales peligrosos

WASTE ZERO SERVICES

State laws AB341 and AB1826 require accounts with 4 cubic yards or more of solid waste per week to have recycle and compost service. Let our Waste Zero Team help your school, business, or multi-family dwelling recycle and compost more, while saving money on your monthly bill!



WHAT GOES WHERE?

¿A DÓNDE VA CADA COSA?



COMPOST



- ✓ **Food scraps**
Restos de comida



- ✓ **Plant trimmings**
Recortes de plantas



- ✓ **Food soiled or wet paper**
Papel sucio



- ✓ **Wooden utensils, chop sticks, & stir sticks**
Palillos chinos y palitos de madera

- ✓ **YES, you can put food scraps & soiled paper in your yard trimmings cart (AKA compost cart)!**
- ✓ Keeping food scraps and yard trimmings out of the landfill reduces methane (a potent greenhouse gas).



RECYCLE



- ✓ **Aluminum & steel cans**
Latas de aluminio y acero
- ✓ **Aluminum foil & trays**
Papel y charolas de aluminio



- ✓ **Plastic containers**
Contenedores de plástico



- ✓ **Glass bottles & jars**
(metal caps & lids on)
Botellas y frascos de vidrio (incluya las tapas de metal)



- ✓ **Paper & cardboard**
Papel y cartón

- ♻️ **Recyclables must be empty & dry. No food or liquids.**
- ♻️ When it comes to plastics, think containers. Plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, and cups are accepted. **No plastic bags please.**

MEET THE TEAM



Meet Elsa! Elsa has been a recycling sort-line worker since 2004. She and the rest of our team of 56 sorters go through over 300 tons of your recyclables every day!

NOTORIOUS RECYCLING OFFENDERS



Plastic bags and film plastic get wrapped around our recycling sorting equipment and an employee has to physically cut them out. This is a dangerous job, and can cause delays on the sort line.



Food and beverage containers need to be clean and dry in order to be recycled, as do paper and cardboard. When this material is contaminated with food residue, like pasta sauce, it ends up in the landfill.



DO NOT dispose of needles, syringes, or lancets in garbage, recycle, or compost bins. They are extremely dangerous to sanitation workers and **must** be disposed of as hazardous waste.