

Better at the Bin



Recology Sunset Scavenger and Recology Golden Gate, your local recycling companies | Recycle | Compost

January–March 2022

When shopping, try to avoid plastic packaging

Studies estimate 8.8 million tons of plastics enter our oceans each year, negatively impacting fish, birds, dolphins, whales, and other animals. And increasingly, scientists are finding tiny particles of microplastics in food, water, and air.

San Francisco and Recology are working together to recycle as much plastic as possible, and we accept more plastics for recycling than most other cities.

But plastic comes in many forms and is not as recyclable as aluminum, glass, and paper.

In December, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a report titled “Reckoning with the U.S. Role in Global Ocean Plastic Waste.”

The report’s first recommendation is “Reducing plastic production, especially for plastics that are not reusable or practically recyclable.”



Opt for loose fruits and vegetables without packaging when you can.

One powerful solution we can all embrace immediately is to buy less plastic.

We avoid plastic altogether when we buy loose fruits and vegetables at the many wonderful farmers’ markets or grocery store produce displays in San Francisco.

We can also send direct, powerful messages to brands and their packaging companies by opting for products presented in glass, paper, or metal. All three materials are readily recyclable.

Are there convenient, environmental options for every product we seek to purchase? No, but in many cases, we can buy foods with no packaging or packaged in materials that can be recycled.

At Recology, we will continue to do everything we can to recycle as much waste as possible, including plastic. Let us all also opt for no packaging when possible and buying less plastic whenever we shop.



When buying packaged foods, choose glass, paper, or metal. All three are readily recyclable.



Cities replicate SF green bin program

- San Francisco pioneered curbside food scrap collection for composting. Now dozens of cities are replicating our green bin program.
- This program reduces methane emissions from landfills and turns food scraps into nutrient-rich compost that helps farms grow more healthy food and save water.
- Together we have diverted more than 2.5 million tons of compostable material from landfill disposal.
- SF’s green bin program helped inspire a new state law requiring every city, county, and special district to reduce landfilling of compostable material by 75 percent by 2025.



Our customer service staff is here to help. Email us at CustomerService@RecologySF.com

BEHIND THE SCENES

Little known Cart Department plays a big role in San Francisco

Some are for recycling, others for composting, and some are for discards that cannot be recycled.

The curbside collection bins San Franciscans use every day are essential tools in the quests to keep our city clean and to recycle and compost as much of our trash as possible.

These carts start their journey in a warehouse few people know about and fewer ever see. It's called the Cart Department and is located at Recology Sunset Scavenger near the Candlestick Park Exit off Highway 101.

Inside this unmarked warehouse, cart bodies nested one inside another stand empty and eager to get in the game. They are organized by color and size. Other resources inside the building include cases of newly manufactured bin lids, cart wheels, and steel axles.

The Recology employees who work here take pride in showing up on time and providing great customer service.

Workers assemble carts and load them into box trucks for delivery to homes, apartment buildings, and businesses.

With every property in San Francisco having at least three bins, several carts reach the end of their lifespan each day. When that happens, workers from the Cart Department bring replacement bins and remove worn-out or damaged ones.



Oscar Picazo (above) and Rafael Loza are among the Recology employee-owners who deliver and assemble new bins when older ones break or wear out.



Customers are always happy to see our bin delivery trucks. We bring the old bins back to the Cart Department service yard and reclaim usable parts. If the receptacles are beyond repair, we recycle them.

The Cart Department is a purposeful place.

Workers use hammers to pound axles, lift bars, and wheels into place. They operate power drills to affix latches connecting lids to molded cart bodies. Bin lids feature hot-stamped graphics showing which discards go into different colored bins.

The larger blue bins give customers the needed capacity to recycle flattened cardboard boxes as well as bottles, cans, and hard or stiff plastics. The green bins are for food scraps and yard trimmings (sticks and leaves). The trash bins are for items that can't be recycled. The curbside carts we use in San Francisco are manufactured in the United States.

Many cities in California and other states are following San Francisco's 3-bin model, which makes recycling and curbside composting easy and convenient for customers.



Newly assembled bins stand ready to get in the game.

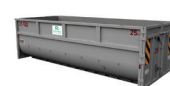


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欲線上以英文、西班牙文與中文閱讀我們的電子報，請至 [Recology.com/SFNewsletter](https://www.recology.com/SFNewsletter)。

Check us out on social media for quick tips, event info, and recycling news:



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