

Sustainability Update

Recycling & Waste Newsletter for County of San Diego Customers



Sustainability in Action

SPRING 2023

RepublicServices.com/SanDiegoCountyCA 619.421.9400

Mandatory Organics Recycling



Credit: BartCo | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Organic materials recycling is now mandatory for all businesses and residents under State of California law and the County of San Diego Solid Waste Ordinance. Organic materials include food scraps, yard trimmings, landscape and pruning waste, non-hazardous wood waste and food-soiled paper products.

In 2016, SB 1383 was passed as a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants by reducing organic materials disposal by 75% by 2025. By recycling organic materials, we will reduce the amount of waste going into our landfills and create compost for local farms and gardens. Your property's participation will be an essential component in meeting California's new requirements.

Republic Services will collect organic materials at least once a week from

customers. Depending on the amount of organic materials generated, Republic Services will work with your property to right-size carts and dumpsters and ensure proper service levels for all waste streams. Residential customers can use their yard waste service carts or bins for their food scraps now. Commercial and multi-family customers with an existing green waste service on-site for yard waste can also place food scraps into that cart or bin now. However, if you are a commercial or multi-family customer without green waste service on-site, you will receive a cart or bin for food scraps only. Please see page 3 for guidelines on bagging food waste and recyclables.

Commercial customers have received food scraps containers at their properties. If you are a residential customer, you will be receiving services in the coming months. If you are a commercial property and you think we missed you, please contact your account manager or SWalsh@RepublicServices.com to start services.

Accepted items include:

Yard trimmings

- Plants, leaves, branches, brush, grass clippings and clean, untreated wood waste

Food waste

- Fruits, vegetables, small quantities of meat, bones, dairy, eggshells, bread and prepared food

Food-soiled paper

- Napkins, tea bags, paper plates and coffee filters
- Papers bags may be used to line kitchen caddies and wrap food scraps.

Unacceptable items include:

- Trash
- Recyclables, such as plastic and aluminum cans
- Fats, oils or grease
- Pet waste, manure or diapers
- Biodegradable plastics of any kind

Please reach out to Sarah Walsh at SWalsh@RepublicServices.com with any questions regarding technical assistance or right-sizing.

Certain Food Businesses Now Required to Donate Surplus Food

Under Senate Bill (SB) 1383, businesses considered Tier 1 or Tier 2 that generate edible food must recover the maximum amount of surplus edible food that would otherwise be disposed of and make this food available to food recovery organizations. Tier 1 businesses, which were required to begin complying in 2022, typically have more produce, fresh grocery items and shelf-stable food. These include food distributors, wholesale food vendors, food service providers, and grocery stores and supermarkets (10,000 square feet or greater). Tier 2 businesses, which will typically have more prepared food to donate, will need to comply by January 1, 2024. To learn more about the requirements of both tiers, visit [Tinyurl.com/SDFoodRecovery](https://tinyurl.com/SDFoodRecovery). Eligible food recovery organizations



include food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, for-profit food recovery services and other non-profits that distribute food to people in need. Food may be donated or businesses may pay for recovery services. In either case, affected businesses must have written agreements with food recovery organizations or services and maintain food donation records.

Commercial Edible Food Generators

Tier 1

January 1, 2022

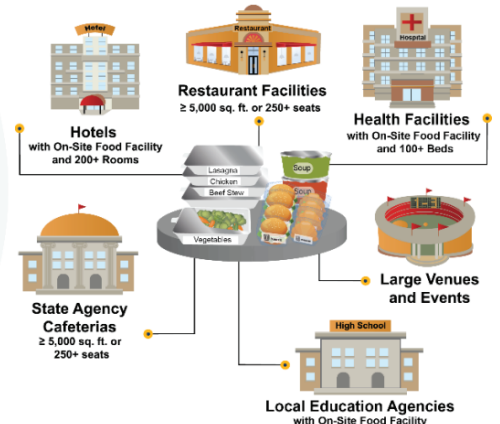
Tier one businesses typically have more produce, fresh grocery, and shelf-stable foods to donate.



Tier 2

January 1, 2024

Tier two businesses typically have more prepared foods to donate, which often require more careful handling to meet food safety requirements (e.g. time and temperature controls).



To learn more about the tiers and local recovery resources, visit [Tinyurl.com/SDFoodRecovery](https://tinyurl.com/SDFoodRecovery).

Local Food Donation Resources

Donating edible food is one way that Tier 1 and Tier 2 businesses can comply with state law and the requirements of the City of San Diego Recycling Ordinance. If you are a business seeking food donation partners, check out these resources:

- Feeding San Diego: FeedingSanDiego.org
- The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank and the North County Food Bank: SanDiegoFoodBank.org
- Santee Food Bank: TheSanteeFoodBank.org
- San Diego Food System Alliance: SDFS.org/gleaning

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County of San Diego Recycling Requirements

Businesses

- Keep designated recyclables and organic materials separate from trash.
- Comply with surplus edible food recovery requirements if identified as a Tier 1 or Tier 2 commercial edible food generator.
- Provide containers for employees and customers that are properly labeled and match the color(s) of your collection carts or dumpsters.
- Co-locate trash containers for customers with recycling containers (except in restrooms).
- Require in a written contract that gardeners and/or landscapers recycle yard trimmings and wood waste that is taken off-site.*
- Educate employees.
- Maintain records, including employee training, landscaping contracts (if applicable), and edible food donation contracts and records (if applicable).

Additional Requirements in Densely Populated Areas

- Meet the County's minimum diversion service level ratio of 35%. At least 35% (by volume) of the weekly container capacity must be available for recyclables and organic materials.

Multi-Family Customers

- Keep designated recyclables and organic materials separate from trash.
- Require in a written contract that gardeners and/or landscapers recycle yard trimmings and wood waste that is taken off-site.*
- Educate tenants and employees.

Additional Requirements in Densely Populated Areas

- Meet the County's minimum diversion service level ratio of 35%. At least 35% (by volume) of the weekly cart/dumpster capacity must be available for recyclables and organic materials.
- Have an adequate number and size of carts/dumpsters for tenants, employees and contractors:
 - Minimum of 20 gallons of recycling capacity per unit
 - Minimum of 5 gallons of organics capacity per unit

To comply with the ordinance, properties may arrange for recycling service with a franchise hauler or certified collector or may self-haul, donate or sell recyclable materials. If you choose to self-haul, donate or sell materials, you must register with the County. Please contact County staff at **858.694.2456** or **Recycle@SDCounty.CA.gov** for details. Non-compliance is subject to an administrative citation with escalating penalties.

** Not applicable for customers that generate less than 2 cubic yards of total solid waste, including recyclable materials, organic materials and trash, per week.*



Recycling at Businesses and Multi-Family Properties

Businesses and properties must recycle paper, boxes, cans, bottles and containers, as well as items that are unique to their operations. If you have questions about your business or multi-family recycling programs, or if you wish to make changes or improvements, call your Republic Services account representative.

Restaurants Must Recycle



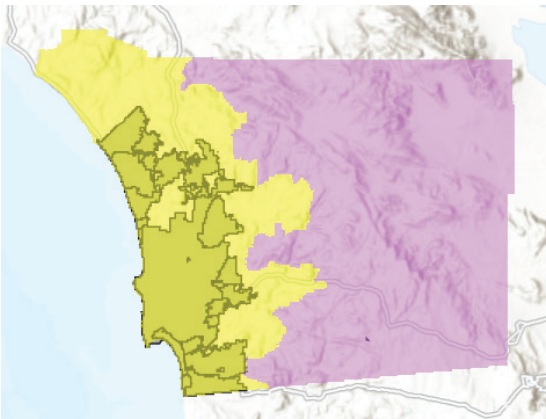
Credit: Intel Free Press, CC BY 2.0

California's Assembly Bill (AB) 1826 and Senate Bill (SB) 1383 are leading to changes in how we handle all types of organic materials, including food scraps, food-soiled paper and landscaping debris. As a result, restaurants have had to modify some of their procedures to separate yard trimmings, food scraps, plate waste and soiled paper from other waste.

In addition to meeting the requirements of AB 1826 and SB 1383 with regard to disposal, restaurants are also subject to Assembly Bill 827. At local restaurants, this means that employees must be provided with kitchen bins to collect organics before they are placed into the green or brown cart or dumpster outdoors. In addition, at self-service restaurants, where customers collect their food and bus their own tables, bins must be provided side by side for organics, recycling and waste.

Republic Services can provide signage and stickers upon request for indoor containers.

Densely or Sparsely Populated – How Do I Know?



You will see labels such as “sparsely” or “densely” populated areas here and in other communications. (The areas shown in yellow on the map are considered “densely” populated, while those in purple are “sparsely” populated.) This distinction within unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego relates to varying requirements depending upon the area in which you live or operate a business. Please visit **RepublicServices.com/SanDiegoCountyCA** to confirm under which area designation your property falls.

To comply with the ordinance, properties may arrange for recycling service with a franchise hauler or certified recyclable materials collector or may self-haul, donate or sell recyclable materials. If you choose to self-haul, donate or sell materials, you must register with the County. Please contact County staff at **858.694.2456** or **Recycle@SDCounty.CA.gov** for details. Non-compliance is subject to an administrative citation with escalating penalties.

Guidelines for Bagging

Bagged recyclables lead to contaminated loads and inefficiency on the sorting lines. There is not enough time for Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) to open and sort every bag on the conveyor belt, which means bags of recyclables often are tossed aside and landfilled. When they make it past the sorting stage, bags can tangle inside the machines and stall them for the better part of a day. To help your local MRF, always make sure your recyclables are empty, clean, dry and loose!



Commercial businesses may use CLEAR plastic bags to contain food scraps; however, residential customers may not bag their food scraps and yard trimmings in plastic. Residents may instead wrap their food scraps in paper (newspaper, old paper towels or paper bags) and place the paper-wrapped scraps in their green cart. To avoid odors, you can store food scraps in the freezer or fridge or in a kitchen caddy until your service day. Do not put liquids in the organics carts.

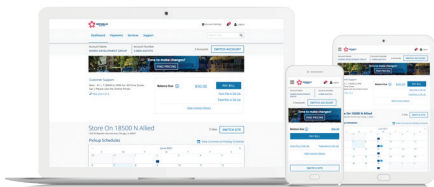


Commercial businesses ONLY may use clear bags for food scraps and yard trimmings.



Please note that “compostable plastic” or “bio-plastic” bags are not allowed in any food or yard waste cart or dumpster. These materials do not break down in the same way that food scraps and food-soiled paper, such as banana peels and paper towels, do in our commercial composting facilities. These bags are a contaminant in the composting process.

One Simple Tool to Manage Your Republic Services Account



With the Republic Services app, you can schedule a special pickup or report a missed pickup. You can request repairs or graffiti removal from commercial dumpsters. Plus, you can even pay your bill. Visit RepublicServices.com/Account to sign up or download the app.

Say No to “FOG”

No fats, oils or grease down the drain — or in the organics carts or dumpsters!



FOG is the acronym for Fats, cooking Oils and Grease. Follow these easy steps to say no to FOG:

- Never put fats, oils or grease down the drain.
- Never put fats, oils or grease in food waste collection or commingled organics carts or dumpsters.
- Contain grease and oil by using covered grease storage containers or installing a grease interceptor.
- Never overfill your grease storage container or transport it without a cover.
- Grease control devices must be emptied and cleaned by permitted companies.
- Keep maintenance records on site.
- For a list of oil/grease recycling companies, visit CalRecycle.ca.gov/organics/food/rendering.
- At home, mix small quantities of FOG with absorbent materials, such as paper towels, kitty litter, coffee grounds or shredded paper. Then bag it in a plastic bag and put it into your trash cart or dumpster.
- Residents can also call **877.R.1.EARTH (877.713.2784)** or visit WasteFreeSD.org for locations to responsibly dispose of FOG near you.



Batteries power our everyday lives yet contain corrosive materials and heavy metals that can contaminate the environment. At the end of their lives, they can present a fire hazard — especially if they are improperly disposed of with household trash. Properly dispose of batteries to avoid fires like the one shown above that put the collection driver and surrounding vehicles in danger, damage expensive equipment and risk starting larger fires. If batteries survive the ride in the collection truck, they can start fires in landfills or at materials recovery facilities, where blazes can quickly get out of control.

What Do I Do with Hazardous and Special Waste?

It is against the law to place products labeled Caution, Warning, Danger, Poison, Toxic, Flammable, Corrosive or similar substances that can be dangerous to collection and disposal personnel and the environment in recycling or waste carts or dumpsters. Electronic waste, such as televisions, computers and cell phones, and universal waste, including common batteries and fluorescent lights, are not allowed to be disposed of in recycling, organics or waste carts or dumpsters.

There are affordable, safe, legal and convenient disposal options for hazardous, electronic and universal waste throughout San Diego County.

For more information:

- Households: Visit SanDiegoCounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/hhw.html.

- Small Businesses: If you generate less than 27 gallons, or 220 pounds, of hazardous waste each month, or 2.2 pounds of acutely hazardous waste each month, call **858.694.2801**.
- Large Businesses: Call the County of San Diego Hazardous Materials Division at **800.253.9933**.

Look for the FAQs on RepublicServices.com/SanDiegoCountyCA for more information and resources for mail-back programs and drop-off sites for different materials. Call **877.R.1.EARTH (877.713.2784)** with questions about where to properly dispose of just about anything and for information on scheduling an appointment at your nearest household hazardous waste facility.

C&D Recycling

In the County of San Diego, construction and demolition projects must divert 65% of their waste from landfill disposal.

What is C&D?

Construction and Demolition (C&D) is nonhazardous, uncontaminated material generated during construction, renovation, repair or demolition of buildings and other structures.

What happens to C&D?

More than 80% of C&D ends up in a landfill – but it doesn't have to. C&D can be recovered and recycled.

What can you do to reduce, reuse and recycle?

You can help divert C&D materials from disposal by practicing source reduction, salvaging, recycling and reusing existing materials, and buying used and recycled materials and products. You can:

- Salvage and reuse items of high value that can be reclaimed.
- Move or relocate a building instead of traditional demolition.
- Dismantle buildings through deconstruction.

Roll-off dumpsters cannot exceed 10 tons, per DOT regulations.

For more information, email Construction@RepublicServices.com, call **844.677.7378** or text **844.289.0833**.

Acceptable Recycling Items



Unacceptable Recycling Items



How Can I Produce Less Waste?



Credit: SrdjanPav | E+ | Getty Images

When we reduce waste with our purchases, reuse everyday objects and donate unwanted items, we can make sure fewer things end up in the landfill.

Reduce

Commercial

- Order items with minimal packaging.
- Print, copy and write on both sides of a sheet of paper when possible.
- Encourage your staff to use reusable coffee mugs, dishes and utensils.
- Adopt an environmentally preferable purchasing policy.

Residential

- Use washable and reusable containers instead of plastic bags.
- Take reusable shopping bags with you to the store.
- Plan ahead with grocery store purchases and eat food before it goes bad.

Reuse

Commercial

- Use refillable toner cartridges for printers. Non-refillable cartridges contain between 2 and 3 pounds of plastic and metal.

- Reuse corrugated boxes for shipping supplies between offices.
- Use the blank side of printouts as scratch paper or to take notes.

Residential

- Pass down clothes to other family members when possible.
- Replace paper towels with washable towels.
- Save glass containers to store food and dry ingredients.

Donate

Commercial

- Give excess building materials and supplies to low-income housing developers or nonprofits, such as Habitat for Humanity.
- Donate unwanted office supplies to nonprofit organizations, charities, schools or used materials exchanges.
- Donate cafeteria leftovers.

Residential

- Donate old appliances and clothing to thrift stores.
- Explore online communities based in your neighborhood to trade or donate household items.
- Donate nonperishables to a food bank.

3 Simple Ways to Make Every Day Earth Day

At Republic Services, we believe every day is Earth Day. By taking a few simple steps at home, you can make #EarthDayEveryDay, too. Together, many small actions can make a big impact on the environment. Here are three things your family can do:

- 1. Clean your room, basement or garage:** It can't be a coincidence that Earth Day falls right in the midst of spring cleaning season. As you're clearing out clutter, be sure you're disposing of everything properly. Donate items that are still in good condition, such as clothing, toys, tools, furniture, household items and appliances. Do not place these items into your recycling cart. You can check Earth911.com for donation options near you.
- 2. Recycle light bulbs, batteries and old electronics — just not in your curbside cart:** These items require special collection and processing and can easily contaminate other recyclables, ruining entire loads of materials and causing them to head to a landfill instead of a new use. Republic Services can help with batteries, light bulbs and electronics through our special recycling programs. Learn more at RepublicServices.com/residents/recycling.

RepublicServices.com/residents/recycling. You can also check with your hauler or city for details about proper disposal.

- 3. Pledge to be better recyclers:** Recycling is one of the simplest things people can do for the environment, but it's only helpful if we're recycling the right way. Across the country, as much as one-third of what people place into recycling carts doesn't belong there or isn't prepared properly. Contamination includes otherwise good recyclables that are soiled by food or other residue, as well as items that aren't recyclable in the first place. Everyone in the family can follow these simple steps to be a better recycler:
 - **Know what to throw.** Keep it simple and focus on the basics: cardboard, paper, metal cans and plastic bottles and jugs.
 - **Empty. Clean. Dry.** Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid.
 - **Don't bag it.** Never bag or bundle recyclables. Put loose recyclables into the cart.

For more ideas, visit RecyclingSimplified.com.

Join the Republic Services Family

Nationwide, Republic Services employs more than 35,000 people who make 5 million daily pickups and operate more than 300 facilities, including recycling centers, organics processing operations and landfills. Our highly skilled team members are passionate about the work they do to protect our environment and the communities they serve, which are typically also the places they call home. If you would like to stay close to your family and friends and advance in a well-paying career, consider joining our team at Republic Services. Available jobs in our region include drivers, equipment operators, mechanics, shop technicians, material sorters, laborers, customer service specialists, dispatchers, recycling coordinators, sales representatives, office support staff members and more. To see and apply for open positions, visit RepublicServices.jobs.

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

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For more information, please visit:
RepublicServices.com/SanDiegoCountyCA

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Please recycle after reading.

Holiday Collection Schedule

There will be no recycling, organics and waste collection services on these holidays:

- Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2023
- Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4, 2023
- Labor Day, Monday, September 4, 2023
- Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23, 2023
- Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2023
- New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, 2024

Collections on and after these holidays will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

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