

# Sustainable Benician

News on Community Recycling & Waste Services



**JULY RATE INCREASE —** Under our franchise agreement with the city, Republic Services increased rates using the twelve (12) month average percentage change in the CPI between December 2023 and December 2024, but not more than 4 percent. The July 1 increase was 2.38%.

Each year, Benicia households receive three (3) large item pickups, four (4) on-call recycling/greenwaste cleanups (which also includes household batteries and CFL lightbulbs), three (3) garbage cleanups-All FREE. Other free benefits include curbside pickup of household hazardous waste, used oil/oil filters, e-waste, access to sharps and pharmaceuticals disposal, and kitchen pails for collecting organics/foodwaste. Call 707.747.0608 with questions or to arrange pickups. More information can be found at [RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA](http://RepublicServices.com/BeniciaCA).

## Time for Lid Flippin'!

SB 1383 requires local jurisdictions to monitor contamination and proper sorting of organics and recycling by performing annual route audits. Republic Services employees may be in your neighborhood throughout the year performing "lid-flips" and looking into all 3 of your carts – landfill, recycle and organics. We are looking for proper sorting of materials in each cart and may leave an educational "OOPS Tag" if something should have gone into a different cart.

### Here are a few things to know:

- No bags are opened.
- No contents are taken or emptied.
- No contents are touched.
- No fines or penalties.
- Educational tags (OOPS Tag) attached to cart (s).
- Only a small number of streets will be randomly selected for lid-flip audits.

Thank you to the residents whose carts have been audited. You did a great job sorting the proper materials in each cart! We also appreciated those who were up early and came out to ask questions and just say, "Good morning!" It's a great way to start the day.

### Here are a few sorting suggestions:

- **Do not bag recyclables.** If you collect your recycling in bags, please empty the contents into your recycle cart and place the bag in the garbage cart.
- **Paper plates, napkins, and paper towels** go in the green organics cart, not the recycle cart.
- **Compostable single-use utensils and "to go" containers** go in the trash. They break down too slow for our compost facility.
- **No e-waste in any cart.** Call customer service, 707.747.0608, to schedule a pickup.

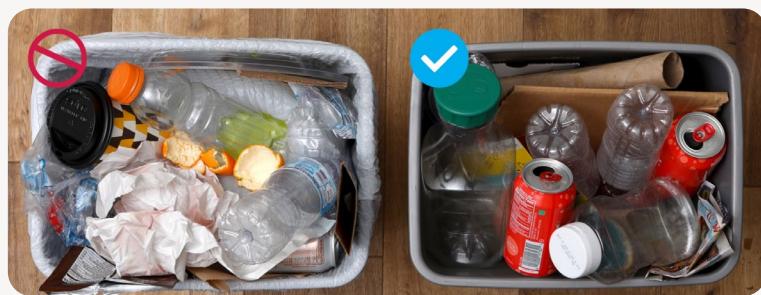
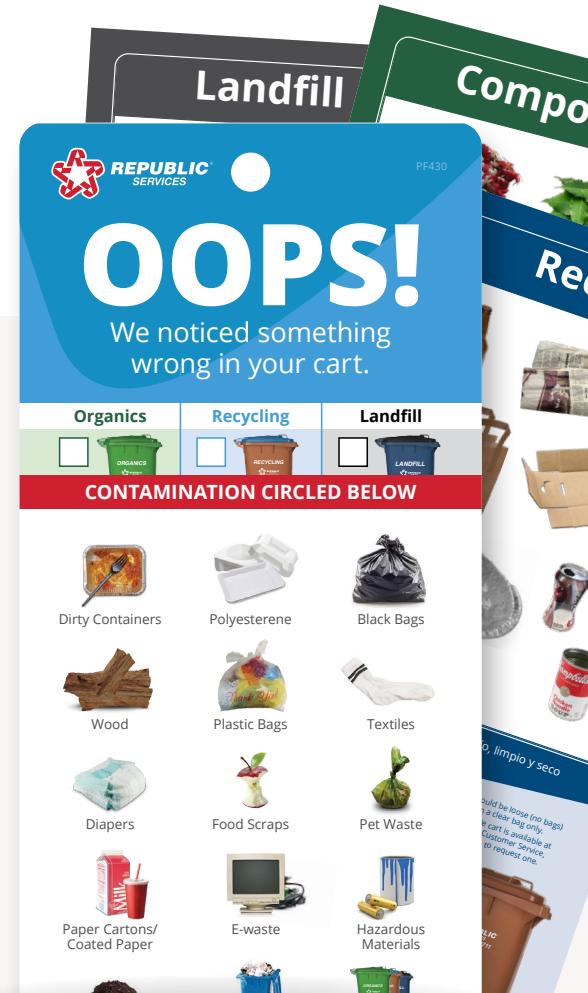


Photo credit: RecyclingSimplified.com

**What should your recycling look like?  
Proper sorting is important!**



**Join the City of Benicia and Benicia Litter Pickers for Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 20, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Alvarez 9th Street Parking Lot.**

**Limited supplies available at 9th Street Park:** Bags, buckets, gloves, and a small supply of litter grabbers, or use your own. From there, choose your favorite beach, park, or neighborhood to collect litter. Return to 9th Street to have your litter weighed and disposed of. **All participants are required to sign a waiver.** Forms will be available at the event or print one and bring with you to save time. **For more information visit: [ci.benicia.ca.us/stormwater](http://ci.benicia.ca.us/stormwater)**

**Not available Sept. 20?** Volunteers are also invited to participate throughout the month by cleaning up neighborhoods, parks, and other local areas throughout September. Google *CleanSwell* to download the trash app. to count your trash... and have your trash count for Coastal Cleanup!

**Trash from inland areas flows downstream to the coast. Cleaning up neighborhood trash helps prevent marine debris in Benicia's waterways and beyond.**

## Upcoming Events

### Building Healthy Soil and Cover Crops

**Wednesday, October 8, 6-7:30 pm**

Heritage Presbyterian Church  
1400 East 2nd Street, Benicia

Visit [SustainableSolano.org](http://SustainableSolano.org) to register  
(Registration preferred but drop-ins welcome too.)

One of the many benefits of our climate is being able to garden year-round. Fall/Winter is a great time to garden. This class will go over some techniques on how to transition to your fall garden to prepare the soil for next season and what edible crops you can grow now.

Lori Caldwell, Compost Gal, will cover these topics:

- soil health with a focus on raised beds
- sheet mulching for annual vegetables
- adding compost
- crop rotation
- fall cover crops to plant, edible crops
- cover crop planting demonstration

*Free cover crop seeds will be provided while supplies last.*

Don't forget to compost that jack-o'-lantern pumpkin in your green organics cart.



Thanksgiving is a big food-centered holiday. Don't let food go to waste. Shop wisely. Eat leftovers or freeze them. Compost what's left in your green organics cart. Call 707.747.0608 for a HHW pickup appointment of cooking oil if you deep-fried the Thanksgiving Turkey.