



# City of Carlsbad

## Commercial Recycling, Organics & Waste Service Guide



Sustainability in Action





## Recycling Supports Carlsbad's Sustainability and Environmental Guiding Principles

The Carlsbad City Council has adopted Sustainability and Environmental Guiding Principles. Sustainability is based on achieving a long-term balance among social, economic and environmental factors. Carlsbad supports programs that manage the overall waste stream of the city and that maximize the amount of waste that is recycled by its residents, visitors and businesses.

### EASY ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Recycling helps protect the environment by conserving resources, saving energy and reducing pollution. As a business in Carlsbad, you can practice good corporate citizenship and help protect the environment. By recycling today, we help preserve Carlsbad's natural environment for future generations. Establishing recycling programs may also help reduce your monthly bill for waste collection services, as recycling service fees are lower than waste service fees.

### WHY RECYCLE?

It's the law! In July 2012, through Assembly Bill 341 (AB 341) the State of California established a goal to divert at least 75% of waste from landfills by the year 2020. AB 341 requires that businesses implement a recycling program. In addition to state laws, the City of Carlsbad requires the separation of recycling and trash under Carlsbad Municipal Code section 6.08.020.

As of January 1, 2022, all businesses in California are required to recycle organic waste, too. Organic waste includes food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, non-hazardous wood waste and food-soiled paper products. Organic waste is co-mingled for commercial customers, meaning, each business only needs one container to dispose of food, soiled paper and yard waste.

Your participation is an essential component to meet California's new requirements. Republic Services and the City of Carlsbad are here to help you! By recycling, we will reduce the amount of waste going into our landfills and create compost for local farms and gardens.

**Did you know?** 75% of our waste is recyclable!

# Sustainable Carlsbad

New state and local laws covering organic waste recycling, edible food recovery and single-use plastic products have already begun. The City of Carlsbad is here to help! Resource and toolkit materials are available at [carlsbadca.gov/reducereuserecycle](https://carlsbadca.gov/reducereuserecycle).

## Enforceable Regulations

### ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 is a State of California law that builds on the state's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The law requires all businesses and residents to divert organic materials, like food waste, yard waste and food-soiled paper, from the landfill. This law also requires the state to increase edible food recovery 20% by 2025.


### PLASTIC BAG BAN

CS-424 is the city's plastic bag ban prohibiting retail stores and restaurants from using disposable plastic bags. Enforcement has commenced for retail establishments and starts July 1, 2024 for food service providers.

### SINGLE-USE FOOD WARE

California State Assembly Bill 1276 expands the plastic straws upon request law to include other single-use food items, like utensils, containers and foodware accessories.

CS-447 is the city's ordinance requiring food service providers to only offer reusable or other eco-friendly food packaging and accessories, such as BPI-certified compostable or marine-degradable packaging.



## New state and local environmental laws

**Organic waste recycling**

- ☐ Jan. 1, 2022  
Donate edible food waste to identified food recovery organizations (Tier 1 businesses)
- ☐ Jan. 1, 2022  
Food scraps, other organic materials must be composted
- ☐ Jan. 1, 2024  
Donate edible food waste to identified food recovery organizations (Tier 2 businesses)

**Single-use foodware**

- ☐ June 1, 2022  
Single-use plastic utensils, straws and condiment packets upon request only
- ☐ July 1, 2023  
No plastic or Styrofoam™ food ware

**Plastic bag ban**

- ☐ July 1, 2023  
Retail stores may not offer plastic bags to customers
- ☐ July 1, 2024  
Restaurants may not offer plastic bags to customers


**How is your business affected?**

New state and local laws covering organic waste recycling, edible food recovery and single-use plastic products are coming, and the City of Carlsbad is here to help!

Resource and toolkit materials are available on our website. You can also always reach out to our team for assistance.

**The City of Carlsbad is here to help.**

[reducereuserecycle@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:reducereuserecycle@carlsbadca.gov)  
442.339.2646  
[carlsbadca.gov/reducereuserecycle](https://carlsbadca.gov/reducereuserecycle)





# We Are Here To Help!

On-site assistance by trained staff is available to help match your recycling, organics and trash services to your business needs. The City of Carlsbad, in partnership with Republic Services, offers a variety of services and programs to help businesses recycle right. Email Republic Services Sustainability Advisors at [CarlsbadRecycling@RepublicServices.com](mailto:CarlsbadRecycling@RepublicServices.com).

## THE FOLLOWING TOOLS ARE OFFERED TO BUSINESSES FREE OF CHARGE

### Waste Audit

A waste audit is a good first step in setting up your business's recycling program. Once you are better acquainted with the composition of the waste your business generates, it is easier to identify those materials that could be recycled and items that could be used less or used again.

### Staff Training

An effective waste reduction and recycling plan hinges on the participation and support of employees and customers. Interactive training will engage participants and emphasize the benefits of waste reduction and recycling.

### Sustainability Supplies

To ensure your recycling and waste reduction plan is effective, an array of materials for your business is available for free, while supplies last.

- Reach out to the City of Carlsbad's Sustainable Material Management Division for the Bins for Business Program at [sustainablematerialsmanagement@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:sustainablematerialsmanagement@carlsbadca.gov).
- Reach out to Republic Services at [CarlsbadRecycling@RepublicServices.com](mailto:CarlsbadRecycling@RepublicServices.com) for all other materials, such as posters, service guides, educational handouts and more.



CITY OF CARLSBAD  
**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**  
Recycling, Organics and Landfill Reference Guide

### Recyclables

- ✓ Paper and cardboard
- ✓ Glass bottles and jars
- ✓ Cans
- ✓ Aluminum foil
- ✓ Rigid plastic trays, cups and containers

### Organics

- ✓ Green waste
- ✓ Meat, fish, dairy, eggs and cheese
- ✓ Bones and shells
- ✓ Paper plates
- ✓ Food-soiled paper towels, napkins, paper bags, tissues and cardboard

### Landfill

- ✓ Plastic utensils
- ✓ Plastic straws
- ✓ Foam food take-out containers
- ✓ Film plastic, such as plastic bags and plastic wrap
- ✓ Fruit labels

Questions?  
Call 760.332.6464  
Email [CarlsbadServices@RepublicServices.com](mailto:CarlsbadServices@RepublicServices.com)  
Visit [RepublicServices.com/CarlsbadCA](http://RepublicServices.com/CarlsbadCA)

**Organics Composting**  
These items will be accepted in your green organics cart.

### Food Waste

- Coffee Grounds, Eggs/Shell, Fruit and Vegetable Scraps
- Bread, Cereals, Tortillas, Rice and Beans
- Seafood, Meat and Bones
- Dairy Products

### Food-Soiled Paper

- Coffee Filters and Tea Bags
- Pizza Boxes
- Paper Plates
- Paper/Cardboard Take-Out Containers
- Paper Towels and Napkins

### Yard Waste

- Grass, Tree and Brush Clippings
- Flowers and Houseplants
- Leaves

### Organics Recycling Is Easy!

1. Collect food scraps using kitchen caddy.
2. Empty into your green organics cart.

✗ No plastic, glass, metal or bags

### ONLY Certified Compostable Products

Please visit [RepublicServices.com/CarlsbadCA](http://RepublicServices.com/CarlsbadCA) or email [CarlsbadServices@RepublicServices.com](mailto:CarlsbadServices@RepublicServices.com) or call 760.332.6464 for more information.

Sustainability in Action

**Recycle**

Cardboard
Newspaper
Cartons
Paper

Glass
Aluminum/Metal
Plastic #1 - #7

**Make sure items are empty, clean and dry.**



WHAT GOES WHERE?

# Landfill



## Palomar Transfer Station

Businesses can dispose of excess trash at Palomar Transfer Station, located at 5960 El Camino Real, Carlsbad. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday – Saturday. A fee is charged at the time of disposal. For more information, call **760.603.0153**.

## Acceptable

Plastic bags



Return to retailer to recycle

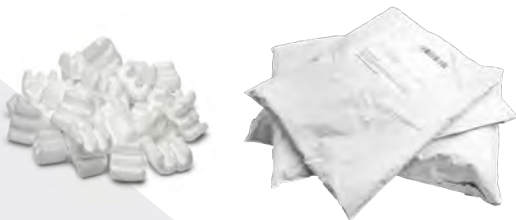
Plastic straws/utensils



Plastic wrap



Packing materials



Foam take-out containers



WHAT GOES WHERE?

# Recycling

Why recycle? It's the law! California State Assembly Bill 341 (AB 341) requires that commercial businesses that generate 4 cubic yards of waste or more each week implement a recycling program. In addition, the City of Carlsbad requires the separation of recycling and trash, per the Carlsbad Municipal Code. Visit [calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial](http://calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial) to learn more about California's Mandatory Commercial Recycling Law.

## Acceptable

Cardboard/paper



Cartons



Aluminum/metal



Glass



Plastic

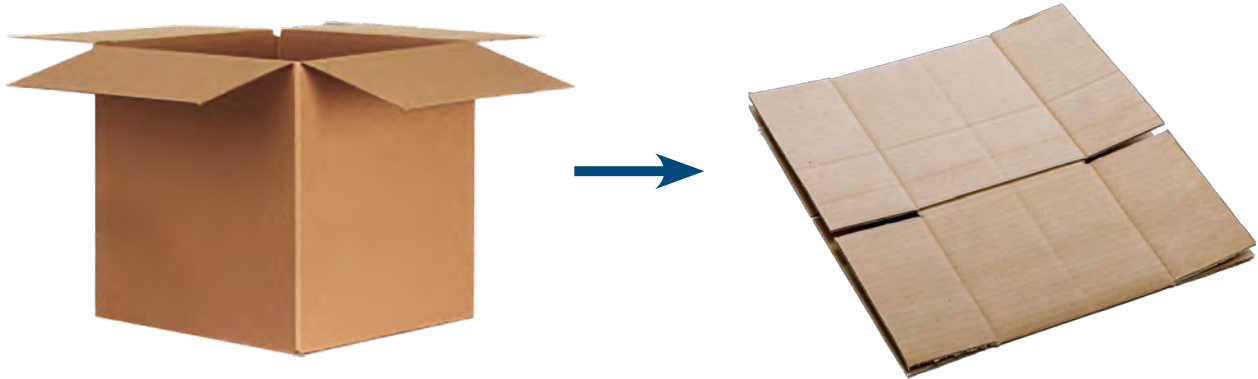






## Always Break Down Cardboard Boxes

Recycle all cardboard boxes and newspaper. Flatten boxes to save space in the recycling cart.



## Most Common Contaminants

Please don't "wish-cycle".



**Polystyrene foam  
(Styrofoam™)**



**Garden hoses, holiday lights  
and extension cords**



**Plastic bags and  
plastic film**



**Food and liquids**



**Electronics**



**PPE**

## WHAT GOES WHERE?

# Organics

California State Senate Bill (SB) 1383 requires all California businesses to compost organic waste. Organic waste includes food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, non-hazardous wood waste and food-soiled paper products. Organics waste is co-mingled, so all of your materials can go in one single container. By recycling and composting, we will reduce the amount of waste going into our landfills and create nutrient-rich soil additive for local farms and gardens. Visit [calrecycle.ca.gov/organics](http://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics) for more information.

## Acceptable

### Yard waste



Flowers and houseplants, grass, leaves, tree and brush clippings

### Food waste



Beans, bones, bread, cereals, cheese, coffee grounds, dairy products, eggs and eggshells, fish, fruit and vegetable scraps, meat, rice, seafood, tortillas

### Food-soiled paper



Coffee filters, paper plates, paper towels and napkins, paper/cardboard take-out containers, pizza boxes, tea bags



Clear liners are OK for commercial organics use.







## Tips to Improve Your Business's Organic Waste:

### IT STARTS WITH PROCUREMENT

- › Only purchase what you need.
- › Look for CMA- and BPI-certified products when restocking items around the office.
- › Have green containers in consumption areas like break rooms and kitchens.
- › Empty the green bins frequently to avoid odors, and as you increase output, increase the service schedule of your compost container.



### BENEFITS OF REDUCING ORGANIC WASTE

- › Save money: By proactively reducing food waste each week, you're saving money in the long run. Buying less food equates to far less waste, and can also help your business save money.
- › Environmental benefits: When you stop throwing away resources, you reduce your carbon footprint.
- › Social benefits: Donating unconsumed food to community nonprofit organizations can have a great social impact.



# Food Recovery



## Donate Edible Food – Support Your Community

To reduce food waste and help address food insecurity, California State Senate Bill 1383 requires businesses to maximize edible food recovery under normal operations by donating the maximum amount of their edible food that would otherwise be disposed of as compost or in the landfill. By recovering edible food through upcycling, sharing with employees, donation and other alternatives, businesses support the local community and reduce food waste.

There are many local organizations that accept food for donation in Carlsbad. These organizations include, but are not limited to, community centers, soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, senior programs and childcare centers. Visit the sites linked below for donation options throughout San Diego County.

### FOOD RECOVERY IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

San Diego County

[SanDiegoCounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/FoodRecovery](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/FoodRecovery)

Feeding America – San Diego

[FeedingSanDiego.org](https://www.feedingsandiego.org)

San Diego Food Bank

[SanDiegoFoodBank.org](https://www.sandiegofoodbank.org)

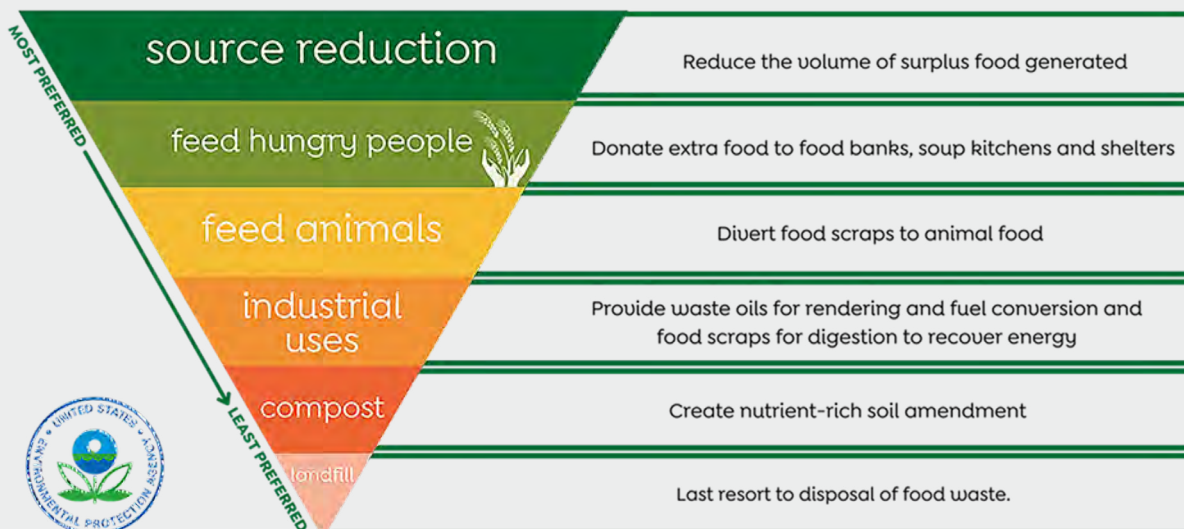
### POTENTIAL TAX DEDUCTION, TOO!

The Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 170 “Allowable Deduction for Charitable Donations to Ordinary Income Property” encourages donations by allowing C corporations to earn an enhanced tax deduction for donating selected surplus property, including food.

## Safely Donate Surplus Food

The “Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act” (Public Law 104-210) makes it easier for businesses to donate to food recovery programs. This regulation protects donors from liability when donating to nonprofit organizations, as well as protects donors from civil and criminal liability should the product donated in good faith cause harm to the recipient. For more information on food donation and organics recycling, visit [carlsbadca.gov/foodrecovery](https://carlsbadca.gov/foodrecovery). Contact [foodrecovery@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:foodrecovery@carlsbadca.gov) for questions and information on how to get your program started.

### FOOD RECOVERY HIERARCHY





# Champion



## Be a Sustainability Champion

The Sustainability Champion Award Program recognizes Carlsbad businesses for their exemplary recycling and waste reduction practices, leading the way for other businesses in Carlsbad to follow their example. A Carlsbad business may be nominated by city staff, Republic Services, residents or themselves.

The following are some incentives provided to the City of Carlsbad Sustainability Champions.

- ✓ Presentation of award
- ✓ Ad in the Carlsbad Business Journal
- ✓ A one-time bill credit of up to \$100

If you know of a business that should be considered for the Sustainability Champion Award, please call the City of Carlsbad at **442.339.2646** or email **[sustainablematerialsmanagement@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:sustainablematerialsmanagement@carlsbadca.gov)**. Visit the City of Carlsbad website at **[carlsbadca.gov/reducereuserecycle](http://carlsbadca.gov/reducereuserecycle)** to apply for the Sustainability Champion Award.





# Service Options

Republic Services provides a number of solutions to help you meet your recycling needs. The Republic Services customer service department will assist you in tailoring a program that works best for your business, whether you are just starting a recycling program or you are a seasoned recycler.

All businesses must have recycling, trash and organics containers. Depending on your business needs, each container size can be changed to maximize diversion efforts.



## COMMERCIAL CART

Republic Services provides commercial customers with recycling, organics and trash collection at least once a week in sizes including 32-, 64- or 96-gallon carts. This service is ideal for small businesses that generate small volumes of recycling, organics and trash.

## COMMERCIAL DUMPSTER

For medium- and larger-sized businesses that generate large volumes of recycling, organics and trash, Republic Services provides recycling, organics and trash collection at least once a week in sizes ranging from 1- to 6-cubic-yard dumpsters.



## SPLIT DUMPSTER

For businesses with no space for separate recycling and trash dumpsters, a split dumpster service option is available. This is a standard 3-yard dumpster, which accommodates recycling on one side and waste on the other. It has separate locking lids and is serviced by a recycling and a trash truck. It is best suited for businesses that generate at least 1.5 cubic yards of recycling and trash but have no space for two separate dumpsters.







## Bulky Item Collection

Bulky items such as furniture, appliances and other similar items can be donated to nonprofits if they can be reused. To properly dispose of bulky items, contact Republic Services at **760.332.6464**. There is a fee for this service.



## Electronic Waste

Electronic waste items, such as computers, fax machines, printers, televisions, monitors and cell phones, cannot be placed in the trash or recycling. To properly dispose of electronic waste, contact Republic Services at **760.332.6464**. There is a fee for this service.



## Hazardous Waste, Bulbs and Batteries

Many businesses generate some type of hazardous waste, including cleaning chemicals, paint, batteries or fluorescent lamps. These items cannot be placed in the trash or recycling. To properly dispose of these items, please call Republic Services at **760.332.6464**. There is a fee for this service.



# Avoid Contamination

## Keep Your Recycling and Organics Free of Contamination

### Did you know trash can contaminate your recycling or organics?

By eliminating materials that don't belong, you help ensure recyclables and organic materials are properly handled and processed. If a recycling load contains trash or non-recyclables, the load may no longer be valuable and might not be recycled. Similarly, recycling or trash in organics containers may lead to the whole organics load being disposed of as trash.



If your materials are significantly contaminated, drivers may leave a courtesy oops tag on the bin. The tag helps increase awareness of what items go where and notifies businesses of the contamination. Contaminated bins may be disposed of as trash instead of recycling or organics, and a contamination fee may be applied.

### Courtesy oops tags are meant to educate and help you identify what goes where



Sustainability in Action

## ATTENTION

The following were incorrectly placed in your **blue recycling cart**:

- ☐ Plastic bags, food wrappers, plastic film, and/or padded envelopes  

- ☐ Polystyrene, plastic plates/cups, take-out containers/utensils  

- ☐ Household hazardous waste  

- ☐ Bulk cardboard  
All excess cardboard must be broken down into pieces no larger than 2' x 3' and stacked neatly next to your blue recycling cart.  

- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Courtesy collection  
Future contamination will result in a contamination fee.

For more information about recycling, food and yard waste collection, and household hazardous waste disposal, visit us at [RepublicServices.com/CarlsbadCA](http://RepublicServices.com/CarlsbadCA).

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Sustainability in Action

## ATTENTION

The following were incorrectly placed in your **green compost cart**:

- ☐ Recyclable materials  

- ☐ Plastic bags, food wrappers, plastic film, polystyrene, single-use plastic takeout containers or utensils, pet waste, diapers  

- ☐ Rocks, dirt, nails, concrete, asphalt, painted/treated wood  

- ☐ Household hazardous waste  

- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Courtesy collection  
Future contamination will result in a contamination fee.

For more information about recycling, food and yard waste collection, and household hazardous waste disposal, visit us at [RepublicServices.com/CarlsbadCA](http://RepublicServices.com/CarlsbadCA).

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# Avoid Overloads



## FAQs About Overloaded Containers

### What is an overloaded container?

Typically, if the lids do not sit flat on the container, it is considered overloaded. Overloaded containers happen when more material is loaded in the container than it can handle.

### Why is an overloaded container an issue?

Overloaded containers often result in materials not making their way into the truck upon tipping. Materials on the top of the container will often end up on the ground.

### Is there a fee for overloaded containers?

Yes, there is a charge per occurrence. Ensuring you have correct service levels is more cost-effective than overloading a smaller container or not having the correct frequency.

### How to avoid overloads

- › Ensure you have the right service for your needs.
- › Increase diversion methods.
- › Consult with your local team to find the best solution.



Republic Services

Sustainability Advisors are here to help! Contact **CarlsbadRecycling@RepublicServices.com** to schedule a waste audit to right-size your services to maximize diversion.







## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Republic Services Office**  
5960 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008  
**760.332.6464**  
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**City of Carlsbad**  
1635 Faraday Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008  
Sustainable Materials Management Division  
**442.339.2646**  
[reducereuserecycle@carlsbadca.gov](mailto:reducereuserecycle@carlsbadca.gov)

**Palomar Transfer Station**  
5960 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008  
**760.603.0153**  
Monday – Sunday, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Recycling Buy Back Center**  
5960 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008  
**760.603.0153**  
Monday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For more information, visit [carlsbadca.gov/reducereuserecycle](https://carlsbadca.gov/reducereuserecycle)  
or [RepublicServices.com/CarlsbadCA](https://RepublicServices.com/CarlsbadCA)

