

# Community Newsletter

Recycling, Organics and Waste Services



**This Earth Day, take action that lasts all year long. Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost your organics. Let's protect our planet *together*.**

## Reduce & Reuse

The best way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place. Ask yourself these questions before purchasing:

**Is this built to last?** The more durable a product is, the less likely you'll need to replace it.

**Is it sustainable?** Consider buying sustainable and locally produced products, which may reduce environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Is the product eco-friendly by purchasing in bulk?** You could reduce waste by buying in bulk.

**Is it reusable?** Purchase water bottles made from stainless steel or recycled materials.

**Reuse household items destined for trash**, such as glass jars for storage or organizing.

**Donate instead of disposing.** One person's trash is another person's treasure.

## Recycle

Recycling provides many benefits to our environment. Here's how you can help recycle locally:

**Clean, empty and dry** your recyclables.

**Place recyclables loose in the cart:** no plastic bags.

**When in doubt, check it out!** Confirm an item's recyclable before tossing it in the cart.

**Close the loop - purchase recyclable products.**

Checking labels to see if a product is made from recycled materials and can be recycled encourages manufacturers to make more recycled products available.

**Extra cardboard** can be dropped off at Republic Services, 2901 Industrial Ct., Fairfield, M - F, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Most common mistake:** Never place recyclables in plastic bags, as this traps and jams sorting machinery and is not recyclable.

## Prevent Food Waste

Reducing food waste helps cut greenhouse gas emissions, and supports a more sustainable community.

**Organize your pantry and refrigerator** so you are aware of what you have and use items that are going to expire first.

**Plan your meals** and make a list of items you need.

**Monitor your food leftovers** and find out if you can prepare less.

**Freeze your leftovers** to extend their life.

**Compost your organics.** Turn food scraps into a climate win! Organics recycling cuts methane pollution, one of the fastest ways we can help protect our climate. You can place food scraps, yard trimmings and food-soiled paper materials in your organics cart (green lid).

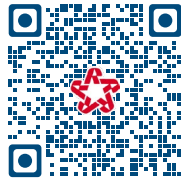
**Most common mistake:** **Don't put plastics** in the organics cart. Only use certified compostable products that have the BPI logo showing certification.

## Clean Practices Protect the Environment and Our Community

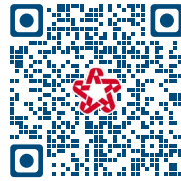
By maintaining clean recycling and organics streams, you're helping create a cleaner, healthier community for everyone.

- ▶ Always make sure recyclables are empty, clean and dry before placing them in the recycling cart.
- ▶ Help protect recycling quality by keeping food-soiled containers and non-separable mixed-material items out of your recycling cart.
- ▶ Plastic bags can disrupt recycling—thank you for keeping them out of your cart.
- ▶ For organics, only place food scraps, yard trimmings and approved BPI compostable materials in your organics cart.
- ▶ Treated or painted wood belongs in the trash to help prevent contamination in recycling and organics.
- ▶ When in doubt, check our guidelines. Just scan the QR code for quick reference.

Keeping recycling and organics carts clean helps you avoid additional fees.



**Recycling Guidelines**



**Organics Guidelines**

## Meet the Sustainability Team at the Farmers Market

The city of Fairfield and Republic Services Sustainability Team will be at the Fairfield Farmers Market to answer your questions about:

- ▶ Recycling
- ▶ Organics and food waste
- ▶ Household hazardous waste
- ▶ Local sustainability programs



Every Thursday,  
May 7 – Sept. 24,  
3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Stop by our booth to learn more about how to recycle right and help keep Fairfield clean and green!

## Senate Bill (SB) 1383 Monitoring Contamination

State law, SB 1383, requires local jurisdictions to monitor waste contamination and the proper sorting of organics and recyclables by performing annual route audits. During the months of May and June, the Republic Services team may be in your neighborhood performing a route review and looking into your waste carts. Our goal is to identify contamination and provide education to our customers. This will consist of information handouts. Keeping organics and recyclables streams clean will help ensure that the organic material can be processed and composted. Reducing contamination will also help sustain markets for recycled products.



## Please Help Us Serve You Better

Place carts at least 2 feet apart and at least 6 feet away from other objects, such as cars, mailboxes and light poles.

