



Organic Waste Recycling the New Frontier



It's been nearly 24 years since the City of San Diego made a major change to its solid waste collection services. It was 1999, when the City's Environmental Services Department (ESD) rolled out automated blue bins to all homes receiving collection services from the City.

At the time, single stream recycling was the latest advancement in collection and processing of materials where glass, aluminum, plastic, metal, newspaper, cardboard and mixed paper were placed in the same collection bin, and sorted at a centralized facility using a mix of hand and automated sorting equipment. That change in collection service helped San Diego residents recycle more than 1.6 million tons of material since 1999.

Fast forward to 2023, when the City will embark on another major upgrade to its solid waste collection system, by collecting organic waste (yard trimmings, food scraps and food soiled paper) in a green bin. According to past waste composition studies of what is disposed in Miramar Landfill, it is estimated that more than 140,000 tons of organic waste are disposed annually from homes that receive collection services from the City.

The goal of organic waste recycling is to significantly reduce the amount of material that decomposes in the landfill. Organic waste creates methane, a harmful greenhouse gas that traps the sun's heat which contributes to climate change. The collected organic waste from San Diego homes will be composted locally at a new organics processing facility, located at the Miramar Landfill. Compost produced at the facility will be available to residents and businesses, similar to compost that is currently produced at the Miramar Greenery. Compost is organic material that helps hold and deliver nutrients, as well as retain moisture, helping plants grow while needing less water.

Over the past two years, ESD purchased new collection trucks, ordered new green bins, and hired new drivers who are currently being trained to make this new service a success. Starting in early 2023, automated organics collection will be rolled out in phases throughout the City. When ESD is ready to add your neighborhood, residents will be notified by mail prior to the start of collection. Residents will also receive a countertop pail to collect food scraps along with a green collection bin (for those who do not already have one).

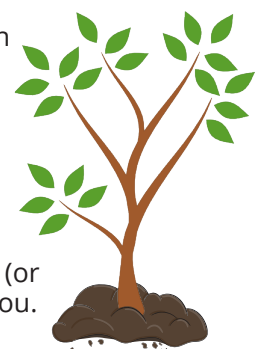
Organics Collection *cont. on page 2*

Miramar Greenery Compost – San Diego's Best Kept Secret

If you want to help your garden plants grow and flourish, one of the easiest things you can do is add organic material to the soil. One of the best forms of organic material is compost. Besides adding nutrients, such as nitrogen, compost creates an environment where worms and micro-organisms are able to create a healthy soil ecosystem.

If you have raised garden beds to grow your own fruit and vegetables or just want to improve your garden soil, apply 2" to 3" of compost at a depth of 3" to 4" a few times a year. Over time, you'll have darker healthier soil that helps plants establish a better root system, eliminate the need for synthetic fertilizer, allows water to be better absorbed into the soil and helps capture carbon. A blanket of compost and mulch can also help with slope stabilization. Or make your own potting mix using compost – blend two parts compost with one part each of peat moss and perlite. Your garden and potted plants will thank you!

Each year, more than 100,000 tons of yard trimmings and food waste are transformed into compost and mulch products at the Miramar Greenery. City of San Diego residents can self-load two cubic yards (or eleven 32-gallon cans full) of compost or 4-inch mulch for free; there is a \$12 fee to have it loaded for you. The Greenery is located at the Miramar Landfill, 5180 Convoy Street at Hwy. 52.

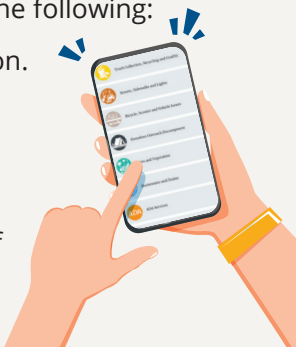


Help Us Get it Done

The best tool residents have for waste and recycling questions and services is going online and using Get-It-Done at sandiego.gov/get-it-done or by using the Get-It-Done mobile app.

Get It Done allows residents to do the following:

- ✓ Check and report missed collection.
- ✓ Check your collection schedule.
- ✓ Replace damaged containers.
- ✓ Order additional containers.
- ✓ Report illegal dumping.
- ✓ Make a hazardous waste drop-off appointment.
- ✓ ADA assisted collection.



Donations Give Items a Second Chance

Do you have clothes or household items you no longer use that are taking up space in the closet or garage? Don't trash them; put them to use by donating them instead. San Diego has a network of charitable organizations that accept clothing and usable household goods.

Need help finding where to donate and recycle something? Visit WasteFreeSD.org, it's a great resource that can help you locate where to donate or recycle more than 200 items, including clothes, batteries, cooking oil, mattresses, carpet and more.



Recycle Right

Empty, Clean, Dry, Flatten & Loose Sure we all recycle but do you know how to "Recycle Right?" Cans, bottles and jars containing food or liquids contaminate recyclables like paper, cardboard and other materials. If these items become too contaminated with liquids and/or food residue, they may lose their recyclability.

Follow the five simple steps below, to ensure your recyclables remain contamination-free.

- EMPTY** Ensure recyclables are free from any liquids.
- CLEAN** Ensure recyclables are free of any residue.
- DRY** Ensure recyclables are dry before placing them in your bin.
- FLATTEN** Flatten all cardboard and food boxes. This saves valuable bin space.
- LOOSE** PLEASE DO NOT bag your recyclables. They must remain loose in the bin to be properly sorted (only shredded paper should be bagged).

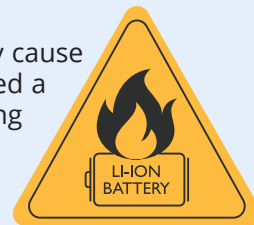


Only You Can Prevent Truck Fires

Placing Lithium Ion (Li-Ion) batteries in any bin (black, blue or green) is dangerous and can potentially cause a fire. Li-Ion batteries are used in cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices and are considered a hazardous waste when discarded. Li-ion batteries can spark and ignite paper in your trash or recycling bin, recycling truck or at the recycling sorting facility.

All batteries, regardless of size, need to be properly recycled. To find a location to recycle batteries near you visit: sandiego.gov/environmental-services/ep/hazardous/battrecycle.

City of San Diego residents can take their batteries and other toxic and hazardous materials to the City's Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility, which requires an appointment. To schedule an appointment or learn more about what materials are accepted visit: sandiego.gov/environmental-services/ep/hazardous or sandiego.gov/get-it-done or call 858-694-7000.



Organics Collection *cont. from page 1*

This Curbsider newsletter has a collection schedule based on your current level of service. Once ESD provides your green bin collection start date, both the black and green bin will be collected **weekly** on the same day. The collection day and schedule for the blue bin will remain as shown on the collection schedule on the back page. If you are still not sure about your collection schedule, you can visit sandiego.gov/get-it-done and click on "Collection Schedule," where you will be prompted to provide your address for your collection schedule.

Once organic waste recycling collection is fully implemented, San Diego residents will have the tools at home to significantly reduce the amount of material that goes in their black trash bin. Individually, we can take easy steps to help protect and improve San Diego's environment and meet state law that requires the recycling of organics. Please make these expanded services a success by doing your part by placing the proper material in the correct bin.

Thanks for recycling and making San Diego a better place to live, work and play!



HOME COMPOSTING BIN

Flowers



Leaves



Grass Clippings



Shrub and Tree Trimmings



Fruit and Vegetable Scraps



Coffee Grounds and Eggshells



Take yard waste to



5180 Convoy Street
San Diego, 92111

NO

Glass, Plastic Bags, Pet Poop, Plant Pots, Dirt, Rocks, Bricks and Plant Tags.

Learn more at RecyclingWorks.com



RECYCLING EVERY OTHER WEEK

All Recyclables Empty, Dry and Loose.

Aluminum, Steel Bottles and Cans



Aluminum Foil and Trays



Glass Bottles and Jars



Boxes and Cardboard



Mixed Paper and Shredded Paper (shredded paper must be in a paper bag)



Food and Beverage Paper Cartons



Plastic Bottles, Cups, Containers, Jugs, Trays, Buckets, Tubs and Toys, Styrofoam™ Packaging and Beverage Containers



NO

Plastic Bags, Plastic Wrap, Food or Liquid, Clothes, Hoses, Wires, Electronics, Hazardous Waste, Chemicals, Batteries, Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs, and Compostable and Biodegradable Plastics.



TRASH EVERY WEEK

Hygiene Products, Diapers and Pet Waste



Dish and Glassware



Paper Plates, Cups and Takeout Boxes



Tissues and Sanitizing Wipes



Plastic Bags, Wrappers and Film



Plastic Straws and Utensils Products Labeled "Compostable" or "Biodegradable"



NO

Electronics, Hazardous Waste, Chemicals, Batteries and Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs.



GREENERY COMPOSTING EVERY OTHER WEEK

Automated OR Manual and Bundles.

Grass Clippings



Flowers



Leaves



Wood



Untreated, Unpainted Wood



Shrub and Tree Trimmings



Undecorated Christmas Tree



HOME COMPOSTING BIN

Flowers



Leaves



Grass Clippings



Shrub and Tree Trimmings



Fruit and Vegetable Scraps



Coffee Grounds and Eggshells



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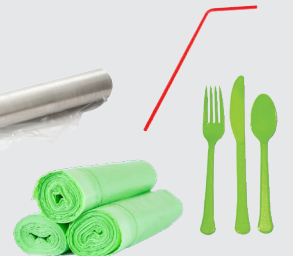
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