



## San Diego Has Gone Green!

For the City's Environmental Services Department (ESD) 2023 has been the year of organic waste recycling. For the first nine months of the year, ESD distributed more than 213,000 green recycling bins and added 200 new weekly organic recycling collection routes to City-serviced customers. These efforts have resulted in over 70,000 tons of organic waste collected since the rollout began in January, compared to a total of 35,000 tons collected in all of 2022. As part of the rollout of green bins, ESD used a variety of channels to promote and educate residents about the expansion of organics collection including webinars, workshops, billboards, social media and local television and radio.

Organic waste recycling provides an important opportunity to reduce the number of materials that decompose in the landfill and create methane gas. Methane is a harmful greenhouse gas that traps the sun's heat and contributes to climate change. San Diego has the Miramar Greenery where organics are processed locally to produce nutrient-rich compost that's great for integrating back into gardens, parks and open space.



Residents are encouraged to close the loop on organics by getting free compost at the Miramar Greenery and integrating it back into their garden and potted plants. Learn more at [OrganicWasteRecycleSD.org](https://www.OrganicWasteRecycleSD.org).



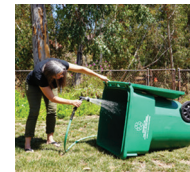
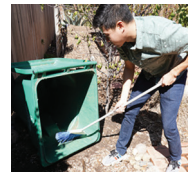
**Next Steps** Thank you for doing your part! The new collection program makes it easy for you to divert your organic waste - food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings - from the trash. You don't have to be perfect to make a difference with your green bin. Start with whatever is easiest for you, whether it's an apple core, coffee grounds or

your grass and leaves. Just remember: your green bin can be put out every week for collection, even if it's not full. If you are not sure what goes where, check out the next page for more information.

**Additional and Replacement Bins** We offer second green containers for free in 35-, 65- and 95-gallon sizes if you're noticing that your bin is too full. When bins are set out for collection, lids must be closed to keep material from falling out onto the street and into a storm drain when emptied. Bins and lids should be replaced when cracked or damaged. If you need additional bins, or to change the size of your bin, or to replace a broken bin or missing lid and wheels visit [sandiego.gov/get-it-done](https://www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done), email [trash@sandiego.gov](mailto:trash@sandiego.gov) or call 858-694-7000.



**Tips for a Clean Green Bin** With the addition of food waste, some residents want to wash their bins. In order to keep trash and debris from going into storm drains, hose out bins away from the street. There are also private companies that clean bins for a fee. For more information visit [sandiego.gov/bincleaningtipsandservices](https://www.sandiego.gov/bincleaningtipsandservices).



### LINE

Line the bottom of your green bin with yard waste, newspaper or paper bags.

### WRAP

Wrap food scraps in newspaper or a paper bag before depositing into the green bin.

### RINSE

Rinse your empty green bin with water over a landscaped area.

## Free Mattress Recycling is Here!

Did you know the City's Environmental Services Department (ESD) annually collects more than 8,000 mattresses - weighing approximately 220 tons - that are left abandoned in canyons, streets, parks and alleys?

When buying a new mattress in California, a \$10.50 recycling fee is added to the final purchase price. This fee helps cover the cost of recycling a mattress that is likely being replaced. What many consumers might not know is when a mattress is delivered to a customer, retailers are required to pick up the old mattress it is replacing when the new one is delivered or within 30 days of purchase. This includes most mattress brands, including futons, that are purchased from a store or online.



However, if you purchase a new mattress and take it home, retailers are not required to pick up and recycle the old one. In that situation, **ESD has a free Mattress Collection Site at the entrance to the Miramar Landfill at 5161 Convoy St. at Highway 52.**

**The Mattress Collection Site hours are Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays and Sundays and major holidays.** For more information visit [sandiego.gov/mattressrecycling](https://www.sandiego.gov/mattressrecycling)



ESD's free mattress drop-off is available to the public, with a 10-mattress limit.

## Lithium-ion Batteries Can Cause Truck Fires

It might not seem like much, but placing lithium-ion batteries in the trash or recycling bin is dangerous and can potentially cause a fire. Lithium-ion batteries – which are used in cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices – are considered hazardous waste when discarded, and are not allowed to be placed in the black, blue or green bins.

Lithium-ion batteries can spark and ignite paper in your trash or recycling bin, truck or 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/batteryrecycling](https://sandiego.gov/batteryrecycling).

City of San Diego residents can dispose of batteries, along with other hazardous materials, for free at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility. To schedule an appointment, or learn more about what materials are accepted, visit [sandiego.gov/get-it-done](https://sandiego.gov/get-it-done) or call 858-694-7000.



## 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](https://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.
- Set up ADA assisted collection.



## Did You Know Polystyrene Foam, Commonly Referred to as Styrofoam, Has a Negative Impact on the Environment?

Polystyrene foam doesn't biodegrade, it's lightweight, breakable, and is usually only used once before being thrown away. Due to its light weight, it can easily find its way into our bays and beaches and can be ingested by wildlife. Recycling polystyrene foam is difficult and expensive.

Plastic straws and utensils are also a nuisance material in the environment for similar reasons, and straws are one of the most common forms of litter collected on California beaches. Plastic straws and utensils are not accepted in local recycling programs because they can't be pulled out in the recycling process.

To address the issues of polystyrene foam, plastic utensils and straws, San Diego's Single Use Plastic Reduction Ordinance (SUPRO) went into effect on April 1, 2023. This law prohibits most polystyrene foam products from being distributed or sold in the City of San Diego. This includes foodservice ware like plates, cups and take-out containers. SUPRO also requires plastic utensils and straws to only be provided upon the request of the customer.

Small businesses with gross revenues of less than \$500,000 per year are exempted from the law until April 1, 2024.

SUPRO will help San Diego reach its Zero Waste and Climate Action Plan goals and help maintain clean and beautiful beaches and public spaces. You can help reduce waste by bringing your own reusable mug, utensils or take-out containers when you eat out. Thanks for helping make a difference!



## Stay In the Loop About Workshops and Recycling Tips

Join the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department's email list to receive the latest news on recycling initiatives, upcoming workshops and events and eco-friendly happenings in your community. Help make San Diego an even better place to live! Sign up today by scanning the QR code.



## Christmas Tree Recycling Marks 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Christmas Tree Recycling is one of the Environmental Services Department's longest-running collection programs, as 2023 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year serving the community.



Residents have two options for recycling their Christmas tree: it can be cut to fit into the green collection bin (with lid completely closed) or be taken to one of 16 Christmas tree drop-off sites located throughout San Diego (please note, the Miramar Greenery is no longer a free drop-off site). Drop-off sites will be open from Dec. 26, 2023 – Jan. 23, 2024. Visit [RecyclingWorks.com](https://RecyclingWorks.com) or call 858-694-7000 for more information.





## ORGANICS EVERY WEEK

### Food Scraps



### Plant Trimmings and Yard Waste



### Food-Soiled Paper

*(paper towels, napkins, paper bags, parchment paper and coffee filters)*



**NO**

compostable and biodegradable bags, tea bags, plastic containers, plastic film, gloves, disposable wipes, glass, plastic bags, pet waste, plant pots, dirt, rocks, bricks, plant tags, food labels and stickers, twist ties and silverware



## 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 lightbulbs, paper napkins and paper towels, any full containers, compostable and biodegradable plastics and diapers



## 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**

food, yard waste, recyclables, electronics, hazardous waste, chemicals, batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs

Learn more at [RecyclingWorks.com](http://RecyclingWorks.com)

Detach and Save