# Curbsider The City of

Issue 19 • Winter 2021-22 CL1

# New Organic Waste Recycling Requirements

In 2016, the state of California signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 1383, as part of the state's Climate Action strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills. When organic material (yard and food waste) is buried in a landfill it decomposes and creates methane, a harmful gas that traps the sun's heat and contributes to climate change.

Starting in 2022, all jurisdictions in the state of California must begin diverting organic material from the landfill by 75% by 2025.

The City of San Diego is in the process of putting in place the infrastructure needed to recover this material. This includes the purchasing of trucks, containers, equipment and staff to collect and process organics from the waste stream.

Further information will be provided to residents during the summer/fall of 2022 regarding the phased roll out of this important program, and how you can help make it a success. For more information about SB 1383 visit sandiego.gov/organicwasterecycling.

# **KICK THE PLASTIC AND DISPOSABLE HABIT**

It's a concerning fact, but every piece of plastic ever made still exists somewhere on this planet. While plastic is seen as a disposable material, it's actually indestructible and lasts beyond our and future generations' lifetime.

According to the U.S. EPA, in 2018 the U.S. consumed 14.5 million tons of plastic containers and packaging. Of that amount only 13.5% was recycled with the rest being landfilled, burned for energy or left to reside in waterways and in communities.

It's time for all of us to use less disposable plastic one step at a time. Here's how:

#### Bring your own shopping bag

It is estimated that Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year. While disposable plastic bags have been banned at grocery stores in California, they can still be purchased, at some stores, as thicker plastic bags that are marketed as reusable, and they are still available at non-grocery stores and restaurants.

Move on from plastic bags and use cloth bags instead,

without by taking items to your car loose or in a cart.

and if you forget to bring them, ask for a paper bag or do



Use reusable food containers

Food wrap and storage bags are plastic disposables that can be easily eliminated.

Store food and pack lunches in a reusable glass container with a snap on lid. It will save you money and keeps your food fresher without the waste.



#### **Combine online orders**

Combining online orders reduces the number of boxes, bubble wrap, air pillows and other packaging materials. It will also cut down the number of trucks on the road.



It's estimated that Americans use 60 billion plastic water bottles a year and only 30% of them get recycled. It takes three times more water to make the plastic bottle than what the bottle holds.

Carry a reusable water bottle



money and eliminates the need to have a few ounces of water bottled and shipped to grocery stores.

Using a durable water bottle cuts down on waste, saves



Each year 25 billion disposable cups are used in the U.S. with the majority buried in a landfill or discarded along roadways and





waterways.

Disposable plastic cutlery is used for a couple of minutes, or even seconds, before it's thrown away. It's estimated that in the U.S. we use 40 billion pieces of disposable plastic cutlery each year.

Become a trendsetter and get into the habit of bringing a cup or mug and cutlery to social gatherings and learn to avoid using disposables.

#### Compost and Mulch Are Great for The Garden

San Diego is known for its clay and rocky soil. To get plants to grow and flourish they need organic material added to the soil. Besides adding nutrients, organic material creates an environment where microorganisms can produce a healthy soil ecosystem.

Improve your garden soil by applying 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, allow water to be better absorbed into the soil and help capture carbon.

You can also 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 located at the Miramar Landfill, 5180 Convoy Street at



Hwy. 52. City of San Diego residents can self-load two cubic yards (or 12 – 32-gallon cans full) of compost or 4-inch mulch for free; there is a \$12 fee to have it loaded for you.

#### **Batteries Can Cause Truck Fires**

t 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 are used in cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices and are considered a hazardous waste when discarded.



Lithium 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/environmentalservices/ep/hazardous/battrecycle.

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/ environmental-services/ep/hazardous, sandiego.gov/ get-it-done or call 858-694-7000.





#### **Recycle Right**

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.

#### Remember, your recyclables should be:



Remove any remaining food or liquid from a recyclable item by lightly rinsing or wiping to remove any remaining residue.

### DRY



Gently shake out excess moisture or let the recyclable item air dry before placing it in a recycling container.



Do not put recyclables in a plastic bag as they get tangled in the sorting machinery. Reuse your recycle tote bag, a paper grocery bag, a cardboard box or waste basket to empty your recyclables into your recycling cart or a bin outside.

#### Get it Done!

The best tool residents have for waste and recycling questions and services can be found 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.







