



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## FACT SHEET

### CHANGES TO TRASH AND RECYCLING IN SAN DIEGO

#### *RECYCLING ORDINANCE AND NEW FEES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008*

On January 1, 2008, the City implemented a number of changes to its trash and recycling services including a new recycling ordinance, revised fees at the Miramar Landfill and the implementation of a fee for the replacement of refuse containers.

#### RECYCLING ORDINANCE

The new recycling ordinance effective January 1 requires residents of the City of San Diego who have City-provided blue recycling containers to separate recyclables from other trash and put each in the appropriate container.

- The new requirement is one component of the City's new recycling ordinance affecting single-family residents, apartment and condominium dwellers and businesses alike.
- The ordinance was enacted to decrease the amount of waste entering local landfills and to help San Diego meet a State mandate that requires cities to keep at least 50% of our waste out of landfills. The new requirement is expected to increase the lifespan of the Miramar Landfill which at current capacity is expected to close in 2012.
- Requirements for apartments, condominiums, businesses and special events will begin February 11 and will be phased in over the next two years.
- The Recycling Ordinance has been in the works in San Diego for many years, and has the support of most of the recycling and business community.

“Sixty-five percent of the material entering area landfills is recyclable. When fully implemented, the City Recycling Ordinance is expected to keep 100,000 tons of material out of local landfills each year,” said Elmer L. Heap, Jr., Environmental Services Department Director.

## **MIRAMAR LANDFILL – ADJUSTED FEES AND HOURS**

The City has also made changes to a number of fees in place at the Miramar Landfill.

- Fees for “self-haul” flat-rate vehicles such as pick-up trucks and trailers are increasing for the first time since 1993.
- Prices for compost, mulch and woodchips have been adjusted January 1 in order to bring the prices for these commodities in line with market prices and to cover the costs for making the products.
- As of January 1, loads that require hand unloading will not be allowed into the landfill after 4:00 p.m. This will reduce overtime costs and increase the efficiency of operations at the landfill.

## **NEW REFUSE CONTAINER REPLACEMENT FEE**

Also effective January 1 is a new fee to cover the costs of replacing stolen, lost, damaged or worn out automated refuse collection containers.

- The new fee returns the responsibility for obtaining and maintaining refuse containers to City residents. The City’s Municipal Code states that residents are responsible for placing refuse out for collection in approved containers. In order to ease the adjustment from manual collection to automated collection in 1994 the City purchased one new automated refuse container for each resident. Second containers were available for a \$50 fee. The new fee policy will affect requests for all containers.
- Second containers and replacements for stolen, lost, damaged or worn out refuse containers will now require a \$70 fee if obtained from the City of San Diego. There will be an additional \$25 charge for delivery unless the container is picked up from the department’s operations center at 8353 Miramar Road, San Diego, 92121. Containers approved for use in the City can also be purchased from other sources such as home improvement stores.
- Blue recycling containers will continue to be free if picked up at the Department’s operations yard. There will be a \$25 fee for delivery of the recycling containers.
- The replacement refuse container fee will help offset costs to the City’s General Fund for the repair, replacement and delivery of refuse containers for customers of the City’s refuse collection service.

Questions about the changes for refuse collection and recycling can be answered by calling the Environmental Services Department customer service line at 858-694-7000 or by checking [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services).

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