ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

the Curbsider

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Your questions are answered. Look inside.

Recycling Works

Thank you to our customers for recycling everything you can! Your participation has helped San Diego achieve a 45 percent waste diversion rate. Recycling extends the life of the Miramar Landfill, thereby keeping the cost of disposal down in San Diego, preserving a valuable source of funding for a wide range of programs, and saving the City money in disposal costs.

Recycling and reuse industries throughout San Diego County directly benefit the City of San Diego by creating over 4,000 jobs, generating $100 million in annual payroll, providing $470 million in annual revenues and generating $3.1 million in annual tax revenue.

By recycling over 72,000 tons of material in the curbside program in 2004, San Diego residents:

- Saved 1.4 million trees from being cut down.
- Saved enough energy to power 40,978 homes for one year.
- Saved enough gas to run 11,973 cars for one year.
- Generated $3.7 million in revenue from the sale of recyclables. This revenue helps pay for collection costs.

Recycling Creates New Products

Ever wonder what becomes of the materials put into your blue bins?

- Recycled paper becomes new office paper, tissue, cardboard or packaging.
- Recycled plastic bottles are used to make clothing, packaging, carpeting, car parts and park benches.
- Recycled glass bottles and jars return to the market as new glass bottles and jars, decorative tiles, jewelry and art work.
- Recycled steel and aluminum food and beverage cans come back as appliances, building materials, furniture and parts for planes, trains and automobiles.

Want more information on how your curbside recyclables turn into new products? Visit www.RecycleOrElse, "Download Recycling Videos."

New! New! New!

Due to popular demand, we have turned your recycling and yard waste instructions into peel-off labels. Affix them where this information will be most useful...on your indoor recycling container, the curbside blue bin or a yard waste collection can.

WARNING: DO NOT AFFIX LABEL WHERE YOU DON'T INTEND TO KEEP IT!
These labels are durable and they may be difficult to remove.

Don't forget to use the enclosed collection schedule and participation information.

Ask Bonita Blue Bin

Have a burning question about the mysteries of recycling?
E-mail Bonita Blue Bin at: recycleorelse@sandiego.gov or write to Bonita Blue Bin, City of San Diego Environmental Services Department, 9601 Ridgehaven Court, Suite 320, San Diego, CA 92123.

Dear Bonita Blue Bin,
I'm curious about how our trash and recycling gets funded. My friends in El Cajon, Spring Valley and Encinitas all pay for their service, but I don't get a bill for trash and recycling collection. So what gives?
— No Free Lunch

Dear Lunch,
You are correct. City refuse and recycling customers don't receive a bill. The San Diego People's Ordinance, a law that passed in the year 1919, gave the City the responsibility to collect trash from its residents without charging a service fee. At the time, funds for trash collection came from selling the food waste to local pig farmers.

Currently **trash collection** is paid for from revenue from the City's General Fund, which is made up of:

- **property taxes;**
- **other taxes and revenues;**
- **and City fines and service fees.**

The **Curbside Recycling Program,** however, is funded from other sources:

- **money generated from the sale of recyclables collected in curbside recycling;**
- **a recycling fee charged for disposing of San Diego trash in a landfill;**
- **and California Redemption Value refunds for beverage containers recycled in the curbside program.**

It may not seem like it at the time, but putting recyclables in trash containers costs money and wastes resources. Because City taxes and fees fund trash collection and disposal, putting recyclables in the trash diverts funds from other City services. In addition, this practice wastes valuable landfill space and consumes scarce natural resources. So, putting recyclables in the blue bin saves City funds, actually adding revenue to support recycling, and extends the life of the landfill.

If your blue bin is usually full and you would like to increase what you recycle, ask for an additional blue bin. It's easy. Just call (858) 694-7000 and a customer service representative will help you.

Bonita Blue Bin

The *Curbsider* enters the electronic age!

Do your *Curbsider* and collection schedule get lost in the vast amount of mail delivered to your home? You can now get your curbside recycling information, as well as other valuable Environmental Services information, delivered to your e-mail box. To sign up for the Environmental Services Department listserve, visit: www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services.

Shred it. Bag it. Recycle it.

It is recommended that you shred or destroy any confidential, sensitive or personal information before setting it out for recycling. After a year of collecting shredded paper loose in our curbside recycling blue bins, we have learned that it is better if the shredded paper is bagged. Bagging shredded paper helps keep litter off of neighborhood streets on recycling day and protects the machinery that separates the materials at the recycling centers.

Paper bags are preferred. Please DO NOT tie or seal the bag as that requires the processor to open it, and the whole bag could end up in the trash bin as contamination. Thanks for your diligence in recycling all you can—including shredded paper.

Miramar Landfill: It's not just for trash anymore...

The Miramar Recycling Center, located outside the entrance of the Miramar Landfill, is a full service recycling center. Recyclables are commodities, so pricing fluctuates according to changing market conditions. Currently the following applies: the Recycling Center will 1) pay for California Redemption Value (CRV) containers, scrap metal and large quantities of cardboard and paper; 2) accept at no cost TVs, computer monitors and CPUs, as well as non-CRV food and beverage cans, glass and plastic bottles and jars, household cardboard and paper; and 3) charge a fee for hard-to-recycle items such as large appliances, small electronics, mattresses, tires and toilets. Call the Recycling Center, run by Allan Company, at (858) 268-8971 for details.

A Goodwill Donation Trailer next to the entrance of the Recycling Center accepts reusable household items such as books, clothing and furniture. These donations both support job training for people in need and keep useful items out of the landfill. In addition to Goodwill, there are many other places in San Diego that accept used household items, including resale stores, which are also great places for bargain hunting!

The Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility, located next to the Miramar Recycling Center, is open Saturdays for San Diego residents to drop off old paint, automotive waste products, insecticides, solvents and other hazardous waste. This service is available by appointment only. Please call (858) 694-7000 to schedule your drop-off.

At the Miramar Greenery, inside the Landfill, recycle clean yard waste and untreated wood into compost, mulch and wood chips. Not only can you reduce your tipping fee at the Landfill, but you can also buy finished products to take back home with you for soil amendment, ground cover or other landscaping needs.

Attention Bargain Shoppers!!!

Would you like to save money and the environment? You can start with the Internet. There are some great online sites that feature low-priced resale items and even lots of free stuff. Get everything from clothes, furniture and electronics for cheap, free or for trade. Without these reuse options, much of this material would end up in the landfill, and people would have to buy new items made from scarce resources. Check out www.bargainlink.com, www.sandiego.craigslist.org and www.freecycle.org.

MEET THE SOLID WASTE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Have you ever found a "Thank you for making recycling work!" sticker on your recycling bin? That means a Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer (SWCEO) was there. Maybe you found attached to your blue bin a yellow tag with instructions for recycling more? Again, the work of a SWCEO.

One way the City educates residents about proper recycling is to bring the message right to the street where you live. SWCEOs are a team of professionals who regularly observe recycling setouts in San Diego communities to assist households that need additional information.

SWCEOs play an important role in educating San Diegans about curbside recycling, and they love to talk to people in the community. If you see a SWCEO checking your recycling, go ahead and say hello. You just might get a big thank you for recycling, along with some helpful tips.

RECYCLE
Or Else.
815125
Or Else.
Help Save
Our Landfill
Just Follow
The Plan...
Recycle Your
Cardboard!
Paper!
Bottles!
and Cans!
Customer Service
(858) 694-7000
Our helpful representatives are happy to assist you with these City services:
Curbside Recycling • Yard Waste Recycling
Trash Collection • Compost and Mulch Sales
Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
Appliance Recycling • Electronics Recycling
Battery Recycling
Used Motor Oil & Oil Filter Recycling • And more...
www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services
www.recycleorelse.com