



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Your questions are answered. Look inside.



Bonita Blue Bin

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## Global Warming is a Waste...

### Want To Reduce Global Warming?

Global warming and the harmful affects of climate change on the Earth's environment are hot topics of conversation these days. Global warming results from increases in greenhouse gases (GHGs), including carbon dioxide and methane, that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Many of these GHGs come from human activities, such as burning fossil fuels for energy and transportation; as by-products of food production, especially animal-based farming; and waste management.

One way we can measure our personal contribution to the production of GHGs is called our "carbon foot print." Our carbon foot print is measured by what we drive, where we commute, what we eat, our purchasing choices, and how we cool and heat our spaces. These activities determine the amount of carbon compounds that we generate in our daily lives.

There are many ways we can reduce our carbon footprint to minimize our contribution to global warming. One of the easiest ways is to recycle. Manufacturing with recyclables takes far less energy than using raw materials. Raw materials must be harvested and mined, transported and then processed into the

final product we find on our store shelves. The energy required for each of these steps results in a large amount of GHG emissions.



# Recycle!

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has conducted studies to determine just how GHGs are reduced by recycling. Using the EPA statistics, it has been calculated that the curbside recycling efforts of San Diego residents reduced GHGs by more than 51,000 metric tons of carbon equivalent

### Using the same amount of energy, more items are made from recycled materials than from raw materials

From Recycled Material	From Raw Material
	 Aluminum
	 Glass
	 Steel
	 Plastic

Energy used to manufacture consumer goods contributes considerably to greenhouse gas production. The table above compares how many more goods can be produced with the same amount of energy by using recycled material rather than raw material.

(MTCE) (56,000 U.S. tons) in 2006. By putting all recyclables in the blue bin, reduction of GHGs could easily double.

Mayor Sanders has signed on to the US Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, thus committing San Diego to make further reductions in GHG emissions.

To learn more about global warming, visit the EPA web site at [www.epa.gov/climatechange/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/index.html).

# Ask Bonita Blue Bin



Dear Bonita Blue Bin,

My whole family is diligent about recycling. Imagine our embarrassment to learn that we have been contaminating our recycling with unacceptable plastic containers.

Why can't plastics like margarine tubs, clam shell containers and microwave trays be recycled? We just hate to put them in the trash.

Sincerely,  
Chagrín in San Carlos

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

Dear Chagrín,

I commend your family for being committed recyclers. There is one simple rule for recycling plastic in the City's curbside program:

- **Recycle all your plastic bottles, and jars, except those that contained hazardous materials (motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, solvents, etc.). If your plastic item is not a bottle or a jar it does not go in the blue bin.**

By following this rule, 90 percent of the plastic you put in your blue bin will be recyclable, and the rest will be pulled out for disposal. For those who want more information about acceptable plastics, read on.

There are hundreds of varieties of plastics in use today. To identify a plastic type the plastics industry has devised a numbering system of "1" through "7," (see side panel on the right) with "7" representing all types that are not numbers "1" through "6." The plastics' numbers are usually found inside embossed triangles on the bottom of plastic items. Each plastic type has properties that makes it suitable for certain uses. Although all plastics are technically recyclable, for many types of plastics there are no manufacturers convenient to San Diego using them in new products.

In addition, containers made from the same plastic type, but with different manufacturing processes may be incompatible for recycling. For instance, #2 milk jugs are blow-molded while #2 margarine tubs are injection-molded. A lot of manufacturers recycle blow-molded plastics, but few manufacturers recycle injection molded plastics. Therefore these latter products have low value and are not economically feasible to be collected and transported for recycling in San Diego and still need to go into the black bin.

Consumers should, whenever possible, choose products in recyclable packaging, and write to manufacturers to request recyclable packaging for products they use.

The City will continue to look for ways to add materials to our recycling program when reliable markets become available. Following is a good web site for additional information regarding plastics recycling.

[www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-recycle-why-can.pdf](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-recycle-why-can.pdf)

Sincerely,

*Bonita Blue Bin*  
Bonita Blue Bin

	polyethylene terephthalate (e.g., soda bottles)
	high density polyethylene (e.g., milk and water jugs)
	vinyl/poly vinyl chloride (e.g., window cleaners)
	low density polyethylene (e.g., squeezable mustard)
	polypropylene (e.g., yogurt containers)
	polystyrene (e.g., egg cartons)
	made of mixed resins or multiple layers of more than one resin type (e.g., syrup bottles)



## Doggie Doodoo Do's and Don'ts

A survey conducted in 1995 by the National Pet Alliance showed that there were over 374,000 owned dogs and over 371,000 owned cats in San Diego. That adds up to a lot of pet waste! Unfortunately much of that waste is left on our streets and lawns. Eventually it gets washed into storm drains that carry the waste, untreated, into our creeks, bays and eventually, the ocean. Pet waste contains disease causing bacteria and parasites that degrade water quality, endanger humans, and impact the health of aquatic life.

You can prevent this pollution by properly disposing of your pet waste. Underground pet waste digesters can be purchased at pet supply stores. You can also flush pet waste down the toilet or secure it in a plastic bag for disposal in your black trash container. (Newspaper sleeves work well for this.) There are even professional pet waste services for hire. NEVER put pet waste in your yard waste recycling container. It will contaminate the compost and mulch made from your yard waste.

For more information about preventing storm water pollution, visit [www.sandiego.gov/thinkblue](http://www.sandiego.gov/thinkblue) or call 619-235-1000.



# Hear ye! The City has a new Recycling Ordinance!



**On November 13, 2007 the City Council adopted the City Recycling Ordinance (CRO)** in a unanimous vote.

This ordinance received resounding support from San Diego's business and environmental communities.

Beginning January 1, 2008 residents with blue curbside recycling carts provided by the City of San Diego will be required to keep all recyclables out of the City-provided black trash carts.

Beginning February 18, 2008, all commercial properties over 20,000 square feet and all multi-family residential facilities with over 100 units will be required to provide recycling to their tenants. Smaller facilities will be phased in over two years.

The purpose of the CRO is to ensure that all residents and businesses in San Diego have access to convenient and cost effective recycling. With the health of our environment in the balance, San Diegans are eager to do their part.



## What to do with plastic bags and packing peanuts?

**Customers may try to avoid plastic bags and packing peanuts as much as possible.**

Taking reusable bags when shopping avoids consuming yet another plastic or paper bag, while using crumpled newspaper in shipping cartons avoids the packing peanuts problem.

Despite our best efforts, we will become unintended recipients of plastic bags and packing peanuts.

**So what is a responsible person to do?** One thing that should never be done is to put plastic bags and packing peanuts in the curbside recycling bin. They make a mess of recycling equipment and are therefore not accepted in the blue bin.

**But STOP!!!** Plastic bags and packing peanuts don't have to go in the trash! Plastic bags and other film plastic, including newspaper sleeves, shrink wrap, and dry cleaner bags, can be taken to supermarkets and pharmacies for recycling. Look for barrels located near the entrance of your favorite stores.

Packing peanuts can be taken to shipping stores like Mail Boxes Etc. and UPS. However, some stores will not accept biodegradable packing peanuts.

**Call the Plastic Loose Fill Council's Peanut Hotline 800-828-2214** for other options. Always call first to confirm stores will accept the peanuts.



## California Redemption Value Has Increased

**NEW  
RECYCLING  
REFUNDS  
ARE 5¢ & 10¢**  
[bottlesandcans.com](http://bottlesandcans.com)

**On January 1, 2007,** the California Department of Conservation began paying higher refunds for CRV containers. The CRV deposit and refund are now 5 cents for containers of under 24-ounce volume and 10 cents for those containers with 24-ounce or greater capacity. For more information about rules and regulations regarding CRV containers, call **1-800-RECYCLE (1-800-732-9253)**.

For information about a buy back center near you, call **858-694-7000**.

# Holiday Conservation Tips

The winter holiday season is a festive time that can be tough on the environment and our finances. Following are some ideas for relieving stress on both.



[www.allfreecrafts.com](http://www.allfreecrafts.com)

Homemade gifts are fun to make and are appreciated for their extra effort. Many gifts can be made from common household items. Search for web sites and crafts books for ideas for crafts and homemade gifts.



Give gift cards and event tickets: theater tickets for the play-goers; book store gift cards for readers; photo store gift cards for shutter bugs.



[www.yankee-swap.net](http://www.yankee-swap.net)

To re-gift or not...encourage your gift recipients to exchange or re-gift what they cannot use.



Most gift packaging is made of recyclable paper. If the holidays overflow your blue bin, consider saving the overflow in a box until your next recycling day.

Save the good sheets of wrapping paper for reuse on future gifts. Save and reuse gift bags.



Send holiday greetings via e-mail when possible, or send greeting cards made from recycled paper.



Some local tree farms will take back their potted trees after the holidays. Confirm their policy with the individual businesses. Also look for a convenient adopt-a-tree service that will deliver a potted tree and pick it up after the holidays.

For cut trees, saw them in half and recycle at the curb if you have curbside yard waste collection. For those without curbside yard waste collection, the City provides convenient drop-off locations. Call 858-694-7000 for a location near you.

Artificial holiday trees can be reused year after year.



**For more ways to conserve during the holidays visit:**  
[www.ciwmb.ca.gov/PublicEd/Holidays/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/PublicEd/Holidays/)

## Customer Service

**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...**

**858-694-7000**  
[www.recycleorelse.com](http://www.recycleorelse.com)

This information is available  
in alternative formats upon request.

Printed on recycled paper.