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San Diegans are required by the State of California to reduce our trash by 50%. Why is this important? Currently, most of our trash is buried at the Miramar Landfill, which is expected to close around 2012. After this, we'll have to find a new place to send our trash. Reducing our trash now will extend the life of the landfill, save resources, save energy and reduce pollution.

## Can You Cut Your TRASH



**Recycle** ~ Recycling turns "trash" into new products. Aluminum cans get made into products like new aluminum cans and baseball bats; junk mail gets made into tissue and packaging; and plastic bottles get made into clothing and carpets.

### Recycling:

- saves energy and prevents pollution caused by mining and timber harvesting
- decreases emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change
- conserves natural resources such as timber, water and minerals

You're doing a great job reducing your trash! So far, San Diego has reduced its waste by 45%. Miramar Landfill is a precious commodity and hard to replace given current environmental laws. It was originally scheduled to close in 1996, but San Diego's success with recycling has contributed to extending the life of the landfill by 16 years! But we still need to do more to get to 50% and possibly extend the life of our only landfill even more! Here are some of the things you can do to reduce the amount of trash you generate:

**Reduce and Reuse** ~ The best way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place!

**Grasscycle** ~ Leave your grass clippings on the lawn in order to provide nutrients and save water, time & money.

**Reduce Household Waste** ~ Donate unneeded items by giving them to charity or having a yard sale. You can also buy in bulk, use cloth bags, reuse plastic grocery bags, and use cloth towels instead of paper.



## In HALF?

- reduces the need for landfills
- creates jobs
- helps sustain the environment for future generations

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# Do No HARM



**Did you know** there are certain items that are not allowed in the landfill – or your trash or recycling cart? Motor oil, paint, gasoline, large appliances, TVs and computer monitors can all be harmful if disposed in the landfill. Many of these items can be recycled. Here are some of the ways you can take care of these special wastes:

- **Take** used motor oil, oil filters and automotive batteries to participating auto supply locations. Call Customer Service for a location near you.
- **Bring** paint, pesticides and other harmful household or pool products to the City’s Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility. Call Customer Service to make a Saturday appointment.
- **Reuse or recycle** large appliances such as refrigerators, ovens, washers and air conditioners. If it still works, call a charity or thrift store to donate. If not, you can recycle these items at the Miramar Recycling Center for a small fee. Call Customer Service for prices.
- **Recycle** TVs, computer monitors and other electronics at the Miramar Recycling Center or call Customer Service for other locations. There is usually a fee for this service.

**Customer Service 858-694-7000**

## It's MORE than just a LANDFILL...

If you haven't been to the landfill lately, you might be surprised at all of the waste reduction opportunities there (the landfill is at the end of Convoy St. just north of Highway 52).

### The Greenery ~

In addition to the 5,200 tons of trash brought to the landfill each day, over 250 tons of yard waste, lawn clippings and clean wood are brought to the Miramar Landfill Greenery every day for recycling. This material is ground into small pieces and then piled in giant rows called windrows. The windrows are watered and turned with a special machine (see photo below) until they reach high enough temperatures to kill weed seeds and eliminate disease-causing microorganisms. After 15 days the material becomes mulch and if processed for 60 days, it becomes compost.

The Greenery also makes wood chips from clean wood waste. Give these products a try in your yard today! Call Customer Service for details!



### The Recycling Center & Goodwill Donation Center ~

If you're headed to the landfill (and even if you're not), make a point to stop at the Miramar Recycling Center and Goodwill donation center. They are conveniently located on your right as you enter the landfill, so you can lighten your load and reduce your waste before going to the landfill. You may donate or recycle used household items, appliances, newspapers, beverage containers, cooking oil and many other items at these sites. Check out our web site ([www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services)) or call Customer Service for a complete list of items that can be taken to these facilities.

### The Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility ~

This collection center is conveniently located at the entrance to the landfill. It's only open on Saturdays and appointments are necessary. See article above for more information.

### The Miramar Landfill ~

The Miramar Landfill is open seven days a week, Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, Sunday and most holidays, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. It is closed on New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Fees vary, call for details 858-573-1418.

## Benefits of Compost & Mulch

*One of the finest composts in San Diego is made from your yard waste. The Greenery compost is a soil amendment that:*

- improves soil texture
- improves nutrient value
- increases soil water holding capacity

*Use compost in your yard or for houseplants!*

*Mulch is a ground cover used for weed control, reducing erosion on slopes and reducing water use.*

# We Have a Winner!



**Doug, Stephanie & Trevor Reichenberg** recently won the grand prize in the City of San Diego Curbside Recycling Excellence Contest. They had little or no trash in their recycling cart and little or no recyclable items in their trash cart. They won more than \$500 in prizes. You could win, too! Just put your cart out on your collection day and make sure you're participating correctly. Every year 48 winners are randomly chosen, including two grand prize winners!

# Collection 101



**The Environmental Services Department** collects trash and recyclable materials from most City residents. Here are some rules that help us help you.

- Trash is collected once a week in black carts.
- Recycling is collected every two weeks in blue carts.
- Carts are set out in the street or alley, wheels against the curb (if you have one), with the handle facing away from the street, by 7:00 a.m. on your collection day.
- Carts need to be kept at least three feet from other carts, parked cars, lamp posts, and any other obstructions, so the collection truck can get to your cart.
- Carts should be removed from collection point by 6:00 p.m. on collection day.
- Collection is delayed one day after City holidays.
- Remember: no liquids or hazardous materials in your trash cart.

# Scavenging is a Crime!

Did you know it's illegal for unauthorized people to remove material from the blue recycling carts? The City needs your help in preventing this scavenging. If you see someone taking material out of blue recycling carts, please call our Code Enforcement Program at 858-492-5055. Thanks for your help!

# Cut Your Trash in Half

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You can help by recycling at the curb. We're counting on you to pitch in and recycle everything you can. Here's a list of all the items you can put in your blue curbside recycling cart:

### PAPER

- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Cardboard
- Junk Mail
- Catalogs
- Phone Books
- Cereal boxes & other paper packaging

### BOTTLES AND CANS

- Aluminum cans
- All ♻️ & ♻️ plastic bottles through California Refund Value (CRV) plastic bottles
- Steel and tin cans
- Glass food and beverage bottles & jars
- Empty aerosol cans

Please remember, no trash in your blue cart! Trash contamination makes the program more costly and less effective.

**Compost** ~ Yard trimmings, grass clippings and fruit and vegetable scraps decompose into an outstanding soil amendment. Composting can reduce your trash by up to 25% and can be done right in your backyard in a compost bin! If you have yard waste collection at your curb, the material gets composted at the Miramar Landfill Greenery. Call Customer Service to find out if you have curbside yard waste collection and call the "Rotline" at 760-436-7986 if you want information on how you can start composting at home!



# GET PAID to Lower Your Monthly Energy Bills



\$

The **Whole House Energy Retrofit Incentive Program** offers three rebate packages that help you improve your home, reduce your energy bills by about \$30 per month and put up to \$800 back in your pocket!

**Basic Package:**

- Low-E Window Film
- R-30 Insulation
- Wrap Water Heater
- Install 10 Compact Fluorescent Bulbs

**Package One:**

- Low-E Double Pane Windows
- R-30 Insulation
- Wrap Water Heater
- Low Flow Showerheads

**Package Two:**

- Do all in Package One
- Install Furnace with AFUE > 90%

For more information call David Gordon at 858-492-6004.

\$

# 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](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services)



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
Environmental Services Department  
9601 Ridgehaven Court  
San Diego, CA 92123  
Customer Service 858-694-7000

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 1458  
SAN DIEGO CA

## the Curbsider

Look Inside for News & Information about Your Recycling Program!

Ideas for future newsletters?  
Call 858-694-7000 or email  
[bluebin@sandiego.gov](mailto:bluebin@sandiego.gov)

This Information is Available in Alternative Formats Upon Request.

♻️ Printed on Recycled Paper

