



The City of San Diego Commercial Recycling Profile

2920 Zoo Drive
San Diego, CA 92101



The City of San Diego recognizes the efforts of the San Diego Zoo Global, who has notably expanded on their portfolio of waste reduction and recycling programs.

In helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the organization added to their existing vanpool program by launching “iCommute”, a fleet of programs available to encourage employee carpooling. With supervisory approval, employees now have the option to telecommute.

The Zoo’s vermicomposting program helps recycle employee food waste, and boasts a recycling rate of over 90% at the Wild Animal Park. On average, the Zoo composts 2.6 tons of food scraps annually, with the Wild Animal Park composting 1,200 pounds of food scraps. The composting system serves as an educational tool for visitors, and the finished product helps the health of the exhibits. Extending the composting spirit to their foodservice operations, Zoo patrons’ eating utensils, plates, bowls and cups are all compostable. To-go boxes are Bottle Box™ recycled plastic containers, and kid’s meal bags are made from recycled plastic water bottles. The Zoo is currently piloting a program to “close the loop” with their food containers.

The Zoo also practices the following recycling techniques:

- Cooking oil is recycled as biofuel
- Green waste is recycled or reused in exhibits
- Office supplies and packaging materials are recycled
- Tires and oil are recycled in the garage
- Carpets in new buildings are from recycled materials
- Purchasing program emphasizes refurbished or recycled office supplies