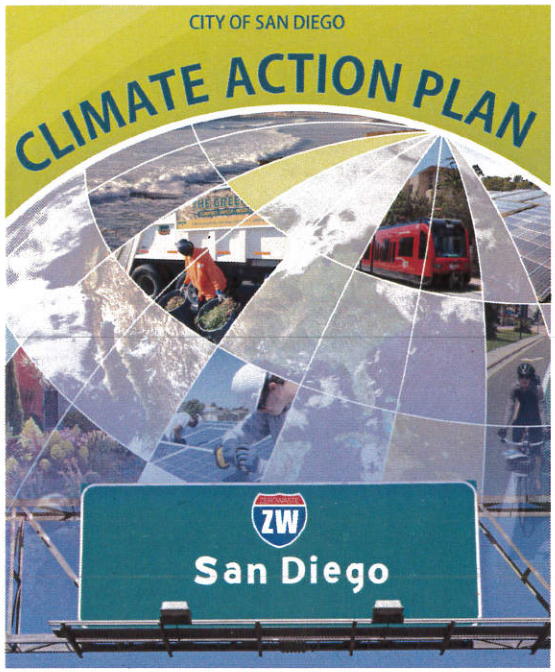
the Curbsider
The City of SAN DIEGO
All Questions: Call 858-694-7000
Issue 14 • Winter 2016 CL1

City Climate Action & Zero Waste Plans



In 2015, the City of San Diego adopted its Climate Action Plan to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent (below 1990 levels) by the year 2020, 40 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050. The plan identifies five key strategies; one of which is Zero Waste.

The City passed a Zero Waste Plan which calls for diverting 75 percent of all trash generated in the City of San Diego from landfills by 2020 and 90 percent by 2035. One of the key components for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and generating less waste is to keep organics (food and yard waste) out of the landfill. When buried in a landfill, organics create methane gas.

Methane, a greenhouse gas, has 20 times more warming impact than carbon dioxide. The City has invested in a methane gas collection system at the Miramar Landfill, but it cannot capture all of the methane gas being created. Reducing the amount of organics in the landfill is a critical component of both the City's Climate Action Plan and Zero Waste Plan.

The City is reducing organics in the landfill by composting organics at the Miramar Greenery. The Greenery produces mulch, wood chips and compost products which are sold to residents and businesses. Besides keeping organics out of the landfill, compost can help store carbon, improve soil quality and help retain water when integrated into the soil. This edition of the Curbsider has information to help residents make a difference and be a part of the City's Zero Waste solution aimed at improving our environment.

Plastic Bag Ban Becomes Law

On Nov. 8, the California electorate voted to uphold a State law to prohibit the distribution of single-use plastic bags in grocery stores, drug stores and small food markets. It also mandates a 10-cent charge on recyclable paper bags in those stores. The law is designed to encourage the use of reusable shopping bags, and thus help prevent litter and other environmental impacts of single-use plastic bags in California.

Over 500 million single-use plastic bags are used in San Diego every year, each one only used for an average of 12 minutes! By using a reusable shopping bag, you can help save money at the checkout, and help the environment.

When purchasing a reusable bag, make sure to buy one that's durable and washable. Cotton canvas bags will last many, many years and are machine washable. To help you remember to bring your bags, store them in the car or by the front door.

For more information, tips and free reusable bags visit **www.byobsd.com**.

FOOD WASTE AND YARD TRIMMINGS

Reducing Wasted Food At Home

Residents who receive curbside collection service dispose of more than 56,000 tons of food annually. Wasted food costs a family of four $1500 each year and costs even more to properly dispose of it. To waste less food consider the following:

- Identify food items that can go bad and purchase less of them.
- Use seal-able food storage containers for leftovers or when buying bulk.
- Take inventory and make sure food gets used before it goes bad.

Backyard Composting Food Waste and Yard Trimmings

Composting at home is an easy way to turn food and yard trimmings into a valuable resource for your garden. It also saves time, energy and money used to collect and process this material.

Learn How to Compost At Home and Learn About Getting a Discounted Compost Bin

The City offers free classes on how to compost at home and offers discounts on purchasing compost bins. To learn more, visit **www.recyclingworks.com**

Recycling Yard Trimmings

It's estimated residents throw away more than 55,000 tons of yard trimmings each year. Help reduce this number by doing the following:

- Residents with curbside collection of yard trimmings, place them at the curb.
- Take your yard trimmings to the Miramar Greenery located at 5180 Convoy Street
- Compost at home.

ACHIEVING ZERO WASTE STARTS AT HOME

Curbside Collection Makes Recycling Easy

For the City to achieve its goal of Zero Waste, residents need to place all of their recyclable material in the blue bin. Not sure what materials are recyclable? Check out **"What Goes Where"** on the next page.

Recycling Tips:

- Rinse out food containers;
- Flatten cardboard to maximize bin space;
- Donate reusable items whenever possible; and
- Purchase recyclable items that have minimal packaging.

Is your blue recycling bin filling up too fast? Pick up an extra recycling bin at no charge from the City Collections facility located at 8353 Miramar Place or have it delivered to your home for a $25 fee (Some restrictions apply). For more information on replacing or maintaining any of your containers call **858-694-7000.**

Need Help Recycling These and Other Items?

- Paint
- Electronics
- Appliances
- Mattresses
- Batteries
- Construction and Demolition Debris

Visit: www.recyclingworks.com

Mulch and Compost

The Miramar Greenery is located at the Miramar Landfill 5180 Convoy Street. This is where yard trimmings are processed into mulch, wood chips and compost products. These products are great for enriching the soil with organic matter, helping to retain moisture and promote plant growth. City residents may self-load compost and mulch at no charge. To learn more visit **www.miramargreenery.com**

WHAT GOES WHERE?

Blue Bin Recycling

- Mail, magazines, catalogs and phone books
- Newspapers
- Aluminum and metal cans
- All jars, glass and plastic bottles
- Clean plastic food containers and cups
- Paper or frozen food boxes
- Cartons
- EMPTY aerosol cans
- Plastic buckets, tubs, pots, trays and toys
- Paper bags Shredded paper (bagged and tied)
- Cardboard
- Wrapping paper
- Clean aluminum foil and trays
- Styrofoam™ packaging

▼▼▼ Detach and Save ▼▼▼

Black Bin Trash

- Plastic Utensils and Straws
- Plastic Wrap
- Styrofoam™ Food and Drink Containers
- Glassware
- Snack bags and wrappers
- Compostable Products
- Diapers
- Pet Poop

Home Composting Bin

- Shrub and tree trimmings
- Leaves
- Grass
- Fruit and vegetable scraps

Take yard waste to

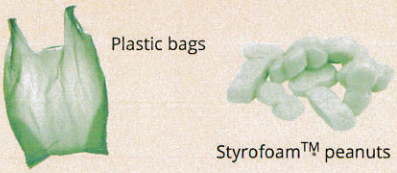
MIRAMAR GREENERY
MULCH COMPOST WOOD CHIPS

5180 Convoy Street

Household Hazardous Waste - Please call 858-694-7000 for disposal options.

- Toxic products
- E-waste
- Paint
- Bulbs
- Batteries
- Motor oil
- Needles and syringes
- Propane and helium tanks

Return to Retailer



- Plastic bags
- Styrofoam™ peanuts

Donate Reusable Items

- Small appliances
- Textiles