

Better at the Bin



Recology Sunset Scavenger and Recology Golden Gate, your local recycling companies | Recycle | Compost

October–December 2021

Christmas and New Year's both fall on Saturdays this year. Therefore, all Monday through Friday customers will receive service on their regular collection days throughout December.



Let's send less to landfill this holiday season

Historically, total trash in San Francisco goes up about 17 percent during the holidays.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could reduce that number? Through our collective efforts, we have the power to do just that.

As we navigate the holidays, let's consider these solutions:

RECYCLING

Approximately 100 cities across the country suspended components of their recycling programs during the pandemic. In contrast, San Francisco's robust curbside recycling program keeps rolling.

Recycled paper and cardboard account for nearly 80 percent of the material Recology collects through the blue bin recycling program. And we can do even better. We are all encouraged to put all recyclable paper in our curbside recycling bins.

Make a personal commitment: Let no paper go to landfill. Recycling saves trees, and we need trees now more than ever because, among other benefits, trees help clean the air.

COMPOSTING

The holidays are the biggest food weeks of the year. San Francisco's curbside food scrap composting collection program has kept 2.5 million tons of compostable material out of landfills. That has saved 3.75 million cubic yards of landfill space and reduced emissions of potent greenhouse gases, including methane.



Composting food scraps helps our environment.

We turned those tons into finished compost that feeds the soil on local vineyards and orchards and helps them grow cover crops that pull carbon from the atmosphere and push carbon deep into the ground where it belongs.

Food scraps from the preparation of holiday meals should go back to farms as finished compost. Let's place all scraps in the green bin so Recology can turn them into finished compost.

REDUCING

Recycling is an excellent thing to do. Composting is too. Embracing simple practices to reduce waste is even better, and it saves you money. The less you buy, the less you pay. Take only what you need and make full use of what you have.

REUSING

View the reusable tote bag as a vital tool. Keep a few at the ready when shopping, particularly during the holidays. Reusable bags empower you to decline plastic bags. Reusable

cups and bottles give us the power to decline single-use coffee cups and plastic water bottles. When we reuse things, we make no trash. That saves a lot of resources, including paper, metal, glass, energy, and water.

CHOOSING WISELY

The most powerful thing we can do is vote with our consumer dollars. When possible, decline to buy products made of or wrapped in single-use plastics.

When possible, favor no packaging. If that's not possible, choose items in readily recyclable materials such as paper, metal, or glass.

Brands and their packaging companies closely monitor our shopping habits. If we stop buying things in single-use plastic, they will stop making it.

Holidays with less single-use plastic. That would be a nice thing to celebrate, and it's possible when we all do our part.



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION IN S.F. TAKES PLACE

JANUARY 3–14, 2022

Please place trees curbside the night before your collection day. Christmas trees will be collected by a dedicated truck on your regular service day.

Please remove all plastic bags, lights, decorations, tinsel, and stands. If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, it must be cut in half.



Our customer service staff is here to help. Email us at CustomerService@RecologySF.com

DEDICATED TO SAFETY AND SERVICE

Two Recology drivers win national awards

Two Recology drivers won prestigious 2021 Driver of the Year awards from the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA):

LAWRENCE JACKSON III, a Recology Golden Gate roll-off driver in downtown San Francisco, won Regional Industrial Driver of the Year.

AARON MEIER, who serves customers in San Francisco's Richmond District, won Regional Residential Driver of the Year.

This great news came on the heels of an announcement that Recology won the 2021 Company of the Year award at the National Employee Stock Ownership Plan Association Conference in Washington, D.C. The competitive Driver of the Year Awards are given to drivers who operate their trucks safely and responsibly, have outstanding performance records, and whose contributions have enhanced the overall safety and image of the solid waste industry.

Lawrence Jackson III epitomizes the commitment to safety and service at Recology Golden Gate, navigating the difficult streets and underground garages of San Francisco's world-famous Downtown.

"Cars, people walking, bikes, it's all a factor," says Lawrence. "You try to time things to be respectful. Always thank people who pause. The situations change second by second when I pull up. I work with dispatch to keep the accident risk low."

Lawrence's positive personality with his quick wit and humor make him one of Recology Golden Gate's most well-



Lawrence Jackson



Aaron Meier

known employee-owners. But behind the wheel, Lawrence is all business, and safety is his priority.

"You have to think safety every time," says Lawrence. "When you get too comfortable, that's when accidents happen."

Aaron Meier takes pride in the work he does every day and provides the highest levels of service, a cornerstone of Recology Sunset Scavenger.

"He truly is an exemplary employee," says District Manager Ron Sherman. "He is loyal, hard-working, and reliable, always willing to help whenever called upon for

whatever needs to be done. And Aaron performs his job safely day after day."

Aaron received national attention in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic when he tweeted: "I can't work from home. My job is an essential city service that must get done. Right now I am feeling an extra sense of pride and purpose as I do my work. I see people, my people, of my city, peeking out their windows at me. They're scared, we're scared. Scared but resilient."

"Us garbagemen are gonna keep collecting the garbage, doctors and nurses are gonna keep doctoring and nursing. It's gonna be ok, we're gonna make it be ok. I love my city. I love my country. I love my planet Earth. Be good to each other and we'll get through this."

Lawrence's and Aaron's commitment to being safe every day and providing quality service to their customers sparked the NWRA to recognize them as outstanding drivers.

Congratulations to Lawrence and Aaron, representing Recology and all its employee-owners. Let us all share in these stellar achievements!



DON'T LET SANTA RUN OUT OF BOXES

Flatten your cardboard boxes to save space in your blue bin. Bundle and place extra cardboard next to your bin.

Recology will collect, sort, bale, and ship 'em to manufacturers that make new boxes.

KEEP THE HOLIDAYS MERRY. RECYCLE.

View our newsletter online in English, Spanish, and Chinese at [Recology.com/sfnewsletter](https://www.recology.com/sfnewsletter).

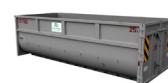
Vea nuestro boletín informativo en inglés, español y chino en [Recology.com/sfnewsletter](https://www.recology.com/sfnewsletter).

欲線上以英文、西班牙文與中文閱讀我們的電子報，請至 [Recology.com/sfnewsletter](https://www.recology.com/sfnewsletter)。



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Debris Box Dept.
(888) 404-4008