SF Environment

Our home. Our city. Our planet.

A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

San Francisco's Food Scraps Collection With Compostable Plastics

Jack Macy
San Francisco Zero Waste Program

2020 Goal

Zero Waste

To Landfill

To Incineration

Promote Highest & Best Use

Increase Consumer & Producer Responsibility

City Composting Strategy

ENFORCEMENT

MANDATES

INCENTIVES

OUTREACH

PROGRAMS

Printed on 100% postconsumer recycled paper.

Public/Private Partnership

Recology™

Sunset Scavenger

Golden Gate

WASTE ZERO

Small Generator Collection

Photo courtesy of Recolog

Large Generator Collection

Compostables

Kitchen Pails Provided
Labeled Certified Compostable Bags Allowed

Residential Food Scraps Collection

Food Service Back-of-the-House

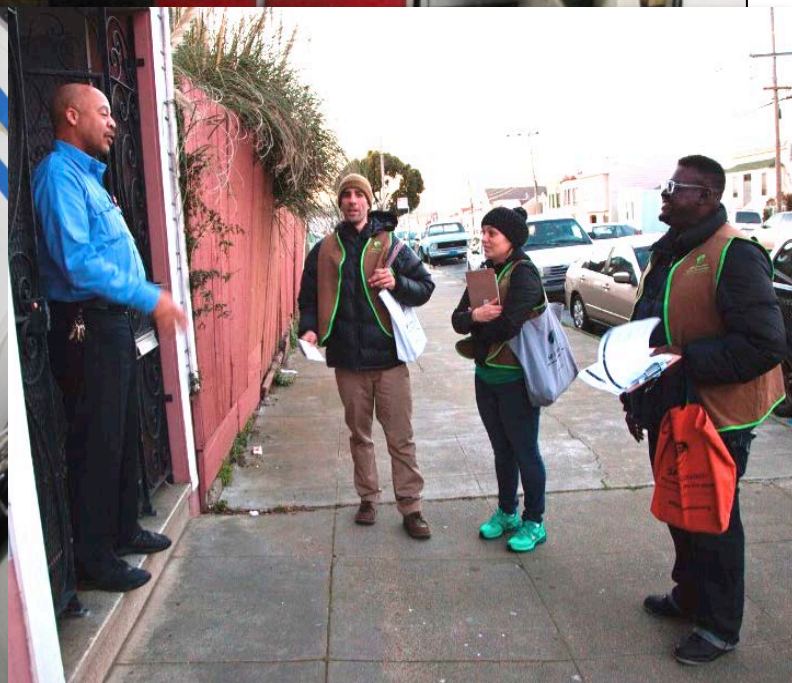
Food Service Front-of-the-House

Images copyright Burger King 2010

Office Building Tenant 3 Stream Collection

Special Events

Door-to-Door Outreach & Assistance



Signage for Compostables

Color Coded 3 Stream Outreach

Stickers, Signage, and Posters for City Departments

To request stickers, signs, posters, and/or bins, please email: sfgovrecycling@sfenvironment.org or order through our Online Order Form.

Stickers - 4.5" x 11"

(4" x 4")

Sign – 8.5" x 11"

(2-sided - images on front, what goes where on back)

Signage – 8.5" x 11", 11" x 17" (2-sided)

Posters – 8.5" x 11", 11" x 17"

Web Resource: Custom Sign maker

Incentives: Pay As You Throw Service Rates

- Generator Pay for Collection Service… like a Utility... electricity, water or gas…
- Save by reducing trash service and discounts for composting and recycling
- Service Provider Incentive to Decrease Disposal

Food Service Waste Reduction (2007)

- Bans polystyrene foam for food prepared and served in San Francisco
- Disposable foodware must be compostable or recyclable

Food Ware Accepted as Compostable

- Paper or Plant Pulp/Fiber

- Compostable Plastics must be BPI certified as meeting ASTM D6400 and be labeled **COMPOSTABLE**, preferably with green print and/or green band.

COMPOSTABLE
Biodegradable Products Institute | US COMPOSTING COUNCIL

BPI ®
COMPOSTABLE
IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES
Check locally, as these do not exist in many communities. **Not suitable for backyard composting.** CERT # SAMPLE

Criteria for Acceptable Foodware

Accepted for Compostables Collection	
MATERIAL	**PRODUCTS**
Paper (brown, white, off-white)	bowls, boxes, cups, plates, napkins, paper straws
Plant fiber ie: sugarcane or rice (brown, white, offwhite)	hinged containers, trays, cup holders
Wood	stirrers, cutlery
Compostable plastic (offwhite, clear, and green)	cold cups, hinged & lidded containers, cutlery, bags

NOTE: Compostable plastic products must be clearly labeled "Compostable" (sticker or printing) in a green color or within a green band in order to distinguish the product from conventional plastic. Cutlery must be embossed with the word "Compostable" on each piece. Compostable plastics must meet ASTM D6400 standards for compostable plastics. The Biodegradable Products Institute maintains a list of certified compostable products that meet the ASTM standard: BPIworld.org

Accepted for Recyclables Collection	
MATERIAL	**PRODUCT**
Aluminum foil	wraps
Aluminum (excluding paper with foil backing)	trays, lidded containers
Plastic: #1 (PET), #2 (HDPE), #4 (LDPE), #5 (PP) , or #6 plastics. No foam or Styrofoam™.	cups & lids, cutlery, hinged containers, lids, plates

Refer to the list of *Vendors of Compostable or Recyclable Food Service Ware and Bags* on our website to purchase accepted food service ware: SFEnvironment.org/FoodService

Checkout Bags (2007, 2012, 2013)

- Covers all stores and restaurants
- Bans single-use plastic bags
- Bags must be reusable, recyclable or compostable
- Stores charge 10¢ per bag provided

Bag Ordinance Poster

Mandatory Recycling and Composting (2009)

Mandatory Composting & Recycling

99% of locations city-wide are composting and recycling service compliant

Side Loading Compostables Trucks

Photo courtesy of Recology

700 tons per day of Compostables

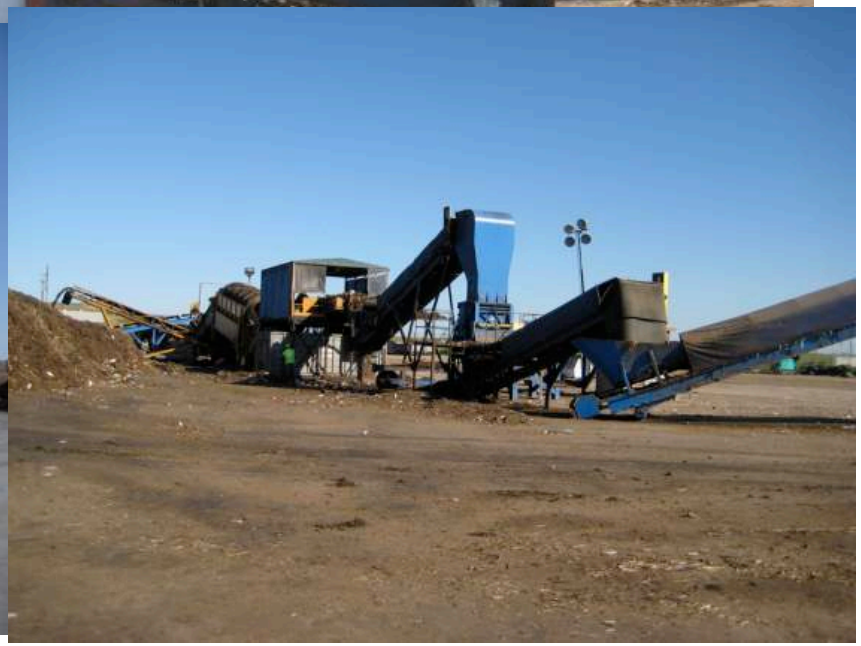
- 20% Residential Curbside
- 5% Apartment
- 75% Commercial/Institutional
- 2/3 food scraps overall
- Contamination 2-4%

Photo courtesy of Recology

Recology's Regional Composting Facility

Photo courtesy of Recology

Receive, Shred, Screen and Sort



Plastic the Primary Contaminant is Removed

Composting Piles Forced Aerated 30 Days

Composting Tests Verified Degradation

Spoon and Cup--ten days buried in compost piles (2 feet deep)

Compost Screened: <3/8”, < 1.5” & >1.5”

Turned Windrow Curing 30 Days

Compost For Landscaping & Golf Courses

Farms & Vineyards Primary Compost Market

Closing Organics Nutrient Loop

Thank You

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