Recycling Programs Must Improve to Meet Marketplace Challenges

You might have seen recycling in the news lately. Across the country, the demand for recyclables has dwindled because China is no longer taking many materials from the U.S. For California, China has been the primary destination for our recycling, with container ships carrying recyclable paper and plastic to China and bringing newly manufactured products back. China’s new policy, referred to as the “National Sword,” has disrupted markets nationwide. With an oversupply, factories can be very choosy about the articles they accept.

“This is unprecedented,” said Pete Keller, Vice President of Recycling and Sustainability at Republic Services. “We’ve had hiccups before. We’ve had commodity crashes before, but we’ve never had this type of thing. It’s an immediate problem.”

At the same time, recycling contamination is at an all-time high, with levels of contamination over 30% in some areas. In other words, a third of the material going into recycling containers doesn’t even belong there.

Contamination results when the wrong materials and dirty items are placed into recycling bins and carts.

In the past, recycling collection and processing have been funded by the value of commodities, so they are not currently factored into a resident’s monthly rate. As the industry adjusts to new market conditions, higher processing costs, and lowered commodity values, the funds needed to support collection and processing of recyclables may need to come from an alternate source.

To face today’s challenging recycling markets, we all need to be recycling better, keeping recyclables clean and contaminant-free. Follow these simple guidelines to create market-ready recyclables:

- Only place these recyclables in the curbside recycling container: paper and cardboard, plastic bottles and containers, plastic bags and film (bagged), metal food and beverage cans, and glass bottles and jars.
- Recyclables should be EMPTY, CLEAN, and DRY. Make sure recyclables are empty of any contents, clean of any residue, and dry before placing them into the recycling container.
- Keep it loose! There is no need to bag your recycling (except plastic bags). Simply toss paper, flattened boxes, and containers directly into your recycling bin or cart.
- Know what should never be placed in the curbside recycling container! Never put in food waste, clothing, cords, hoses, tissues, paper towels, hazardous waste, or electronics. And, please, absolutely NO diapers!

For a refresher on recycling, watch the video at https://youtu.be/R00Cvy9J4Ko.

Mark Your Calendar for the Compost Giveaway

The City of Placentia and Republic Services will be giving away compost for FREE on Saturday, February 9, from 8 to 10:30 a.m., at Tri City Park, 2301 N. Kraemer Boulevard. Please bring your own containers to fill (no bags). There is a limit of 60 gallons per household, while supplies last.

Compost creates healthier soil by adding organic matter and improving soil structure. Healthy soil uses water more efficiently, allowing available water to flow toward your plants’ roots, storing water in the soil longer, and reducing runoff and erosion.

To receive free compost, residents must provide proof of residency (California driver’s license or utility bill). For more information, contact Republic Services at 714-238-2444.
Holiday Schedule

There will be no trash and recycling collection services on these holidays:

- Christmas – Tuesday, December 25, 2018
- New Year’s Day – Tuesday, January 1, 2019
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 27, 2019
- Fourth of July – Thursday, July 4, 2019
- Labor Day – Monday, September 2, 2019
- Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 28, 2019
- Christmas – Wednesday, December 25, 2019

If your weekly pickup is on or after the holiday, your pickup that week will be delayed by one day. For instance, when the holiday is on a Monday, Monday’s collection will take place on Tuesday; Tuesday’s on Wednesday, and so on, with Friday’s collection on Saturday.

Tree-Cycle After the Holidays

We only use our holiday trees for a few weeks out of the year, and recycling or reusing them can be a great way to limit your holiday waste. Cut, real holiday trees will be accepted at the curb by Republic Services from Wednesday, December 26, 2018 through Monday, January 7, 2019. Be sure to take off all of the lights, ornaments, tinsel, and garland, and remove the metal or plastic stand. Set the bare tree at the curb. If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half for safe and easy collection.

If you don’t take your tree down until after January 7, 2019, please cut it into pieces that will fit into your yardwaste container with the lid closed. You can also recycle holiday wreaths and greenery in your yardwaste container. The wreaths and greenery must also be bare, so please remove all wire, hooks, bows, and other decorations. Collected trees and greenery are turned into mulch, compost, and ground cover.

If your family enjoys an artificial tree, pack it up for next year. If you are discarding an artificial tree or wreath, please place it into the waste container. Artificial trees and wreaths are not recyclable.

Entertaining

- Send email invitations, or for more formal occasions, use post-consumer recycled paper.
- Minimize food waste by carefully planning your menu. Make a list to avoid impulse purchases at the store.
- Make your own refreshments to cut down on excess packaging.
- Use durable, reusable plates and serving ware when possible.

Decorating

- Consider turning recycled items, such as glass bottles and aluminum cans, or discarded household items, like light bulbs, into unique holiday crafts, gifts, and decorations. Find creative tips for recycled and repurposed holiday crafts online.
- Use LED lights for indoor and outdoor decorating. These bulbs are 90% more efficient than others and burn cooler. They also last longer during the months of storage between holiday seasons.

Gift Giving

- Select gifts that are environmentally friendly and sustainable.
- Choose gifts with minimal packaging.
- Consider alternative gifts, such as a charitable donation or volunteering in the recipient’s name.
- Give experiences, such as museum or park passes, event tickets, or classes or lessons.
- Rethink the family gift exchange. Instead, pool money and plan a fun outing or donate as a group to a favorite charity.

Gift Wrapping

- Save gently used gift wrap, gift bags, ribbons, and bows for reuse.
- Store some of the packaging, such as foam peanuts, air pillows, or bubble wrap, for future use.
- Use shredded paper as packing material instead of purchasing new foam peanuts or bubble wrap.
- Reuse holiday gift cards by converting them into gift tags or recycled ornaments.

Reusing and Recycling

- Clearly mark recycling bins and place them by every trash can. Use signs so guests know what is recyclable.
- After a party, share leftovers. Invite guests to bring their own take-home containers to fill after the meal.
- Recycle cardboard boxes, unneeded gift boxes, non-metallic wrapping paper, and holiday cards.
- Make room for new gifts by donating old items to a thrift store or charitable organization.

Slow Down to Get Around

You’ve seen the “Give ‘em a brake” signs encouraging you to slow down in road construction zones. You know what the flashing lights on a school bus mean. You yield and move over to let emergency vehicles pass. But what happens when you see a trash or recycling truck at the side of the road?

For too many people, the answer is to race the engine and speed around, without paying attention to where workers are located or what they might be doing. As a result, there are many near misses and several serious accidents each year, too many of which involve fatalities.

Last year, there were 132 recorded fatalities involving workers or vehicles in the solid waste industry. Each person was someone’s child, spouse, parent, sibling, or friend. Of those who died, 38 were workers on the job and 94 were members of the public. Of those 94 non-worker fatalities, 57 were in other vehicles, 23 were pedestrians, eight were bicyclists, four were motorcyclists, and two occurred at disposal facilities. When you see a trash or recycling truck stopped or slowed, follow the steps below to avoid accidents — the life you save may be your own.

Slow down when approaching a garbage or recycling truck making its rounds. Stop, if necessary, to allow workers to do their jobs.

- Look for workers before attempting to pass the truck.
- Check for traffic approaching from the opposite direction before attempting to pass the truck.
- Avoid distractions like texting, talking on the phone, adjusting your entertainment system, or programming your GPS while driving near a garbage truck.

Protect yourself and those who must work in the streets to do their jobs — slow down to get around!
Bulky Trash? Electronics?

Before you call to request a bulky-item pickup, stop and think. Could this table and chairs be donated? Does the washing machine still work, making it useful to someone else? Would your old laptop be useful to a family member or friend? Before you dispose, consider reuse. Many unwanted items can be sold or donated so that your "trash" becomes someone else’s treasure.

If you can’t give away or sell unneeded items, Republic Services provides FREE pickup for bulky items, such as furniture and appliances, as well as electronics, at the curb. However, you must call 714-238-2444 at least 24 hours before your regular collection day to request a special bulky-item or electronics recycling pickup. Why do you need to make the call? It’s simple — Republic sends out different trucks and crews to pick up bulky items and electronics. If you don’t make the call, Customer Service doesn’t know to send out the correct truck. You can also request a bulky-item or electronics recycling pickup using the My Resource™ app or online at RepublicServices.com.

Remember that household hazardous waste is NOT picked up at the curb. If you have unneeded household chemicals, such as tub and tile cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, paint, stain, paint thinner, used motor oil, antifreeze, pool chemicals, pesticides, and similar hazardous products, you may dispose of them at NO CHARGE at the Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. For locations and other details, visit OCLandfills.com/hazardous or call 714-834-6752.

Has a furry friend shredded your favorite loveseat? Call Republic Services to schedule a bulky-item pickup.

Collection Day

Do’s and Don’ts

You might have driven down the street on collection day and noticed containers with lids flipped open and trash or recyclables reaching toward the sky. You might have even done this at your house. You can probably imagine that these overfilled, open containers result in some litter. But did you also know that sometimes the trucks can’t empty them?

With our automated collection system, a mechanical arm reaches out from the truck to grab and lift your containers. When the lid is closed, as it should be, the arm smoothly lifts the container up and over the top of the truck. Once above the truck, the arm tips the container, much as your wrist tips when you drink from a glass you are holding. Gravity does the rest. When a container is overfilled and the lid is left open, items sticking out of the top may be squeezed out onto the ground, may get caught as the container is lifted, or may cause the container to tip and spill onto the ground.

Help keep your neighborhood tidy and make sure your curbside containers can be properly emptied. Follow these simple tips:

DO

• Close the lids on all of your containers.
• Bag garbage that will be placed into your waste container.
• Toss only LOOSE recyclables into the recycling container. The exception is plastic bags and plastic wrap, which should be placed into a plastic bag that is tied shut, creating a “bag ball.”
• Place only recyclables into the recycling container. If you aren’t sure what is recyclable, visit RepublicServices.com or call us.
• Break down and flatten boxes before recycling. If needed, cut cardboard into pieces no larger than about 18 by 18 inches.
• Empty food and beverage containers. Wipe or rinse out food residue, as needed.
• Place containers at least 2 feet away from each other, as well as mailboxes, telephone poles, or parked cars.
• Roll containers to the curb by 6 a.m. on your collection day. If you aren’t an early riser, set out your container the night before collection.
• Place containers with the wheels and handles facing your house.

DON’T

• Don’t leave the container lids open.
• Don’t place bagged garbage on top of your waste container.
• Don’t bag your recycling.
• Don’t overfill containers. Save extra materials to be placed in containers the following week. You can also drop off materials at the Transfer Station, where fees will apply for some items.
• Don’t put any of these items into your recycling container: single plastic bags (instead bag all bags together), take-out coffee cups; clothing and textiles; hoses and cords; tissues, napkins, and paper towels; or household batteries.
• Don’t place cactus, yucca, or other succulents into your yardwaste container. These materials should go into the waste container.

If you have questions, please call Republic Services at 714-238-2444 or visit RepublicServices.com.
Did You Know?

In California, recycling is mandatory for many businesses and multi-family properties. If you operate a business or manage an apartment or condominium community, learn how Assembly Bills 341 (paper and containers) and 1826 (yard and food waste) affect you by contacting Republic Services at 714-238-2444 or visiting RepublicServices.com.


1. Know what to throw
   Cardboard, paper, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs

   Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid

3. Keep it loose
   Never put recyclables in containers or bags

Learn more at RepublicServices.com

Republic Services Promotes Vehicle Safety

In 2016, Republic Services joined the governing board of a private sector coalition called Together for Safer Roads (TSR). Members concentrate on results-driven programs to address road safety challenges. They partner with each other, the public sector, and academia to promote road safety efforts to save lives. Other members include retailers, beverage and auto manufacturers, as well as providers of insurance, technology, parcel delivery, and ride-sharing services.

According to the National Safety Council, there were 40,100 motor vehicle deaths in the U.S. during 2017, the second consecutive year that figure exceeded 40,000. In addition, motor vehicle crashes injured 4.57 million people seriously enough to require medical attention in 2017, and costs to society totaled $413.8 billion.

TSR was formed to be unique from industry-specific nonprofits and trade associations. Every industry faces challenges related to vehicle safety. Republic Services vehicles are involved in a number of crashes each year that are “not preventable” by the company or its employees. Distracted driving can cause vehicles to cross into oncoming traffic or rear-end the vehicle in front of them. Collaboration with other industries that operate large fleets of vehicles allows for quick dissemination of best practices and improves the safety of all private fleet drivers on the road. With the inclusion of technology companies, TSR is also able to reach individual drivers of vehicles.

In addition to messaging about safety, TSR has a program where start-up technology companies partner with members to test new concepts. Through that program, Republic Services is working on the ability to alert drivers, through their navigation app, to the presence of a collection vehicle on the road ahead. This technology is being piloted on a small number of Republic trucks in Chicago. It may be able to divert drivers to alternate routes if a collection vehicle is working on a tight city street, or warn them if a collection vehicle is around a curve or obscured by sunlight in rural areas. The company is hopeful that testing of this platform could make it safer for people working around trash trucks.

Contact Us

Trash Collection Service
714-238-2444
Household Hazardous Waste
714-834-6752
Public Disposal Center
714-238-2444
Billing
714-238-2444
To report Storm Drain and Sewer Issues:
City of Placentia Public Works
714-993-8131

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