



## Help CA survive the drought — Put all food scraps in the green composting bin

Rainfall measured less than half of historic averages last winter. Lakes and reservoirs are very low. Fire season arrived early, and farms are struggling across the West.

Water agencies are asking all of us to help save water. They call it “a collective lift.”

In San Francisco, we have a program that may not immediately come to mind when thinking about saving water but is an effective way to help local vineyards and orchards survive drought.

When we place all our food scraps and yard trimmings (sticks and leaves) into the green bin, we help make compost. And good quality compost is a natural sponge that attracts and retains water from rainfall and irrigation.

One of the main reasons orchard and vineyard managers apply compost to their fields is because compost holds water around the roots of their plants.

Farms are among the biggest water users in California. They need water to grow our food. Applying compost to their fields helps soften their soil and stop water from running off farmlands when heavy rains occur.

Farmers also use compost to grow a variety of cover crops between rows of fruit and nut trees and grape vines. The cover crops help protect topsoil from direct sun. This technique reduces evaporation, boosts biodiversity, and



Local farms use compost to grow cover crops. That keeps moisture in the soil and helps save water.

quality food and saving water.”

San Francisco has composted 2.5 million tons of food scraps and yard trimmings through the curbside green bin program.

Awareness about the many benefits of San

Francisco’s curbside composting collection program is increasing.

More than 90 cities and many universities have followed our lead and implemented food scrap composting collection programs.

Applying compost made from food scraps collected in San Francisco helped many local vineyards survive the last drought. We did that together.

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### PREVENT FIRES

## Tape and bag lithium batteries

Lithium batteries power car clickers, wireless speakers, and many other gadgets. When lithium batteries run down, we replace them and return to action. But what should we do with the old ones?

A big part of the answer is clear tape.

Old lithium batteries may no longer have the power to run devices, but they can still release energy through their contact points.

Lithium batteries that are not taped can cause fires in collection trucks and sorting facilities and potentially harm recycling workers.

Here is how to recycle household lithium batteries:

1. Tape their contact points.
2. Put taped lithium batteries in a clear plastic bag and seal it shut.
3. Place the bag on top of your landfill bin. We’ll collect the bag, sort the batteries, and ship them to a company specializing in battery recycling.



Cover contact points with clear tape.

S.F. GIANTS

# The recycling champions of Oracle Park

Some of the best recyclers in America work at Oracle Park, home to the San Francisco Giants.

Led by chief venue officer Jorge Costa, the park's maintenance workers collect and sort discarded materials for recycling and composting after every game.

They consistently recycle and compost 95 percent of the material tossed by stadium guests and generated by concessionaires. Regularly achieving 95 percent landfill diversion is a remarkable accomplishment and positive example for all.

Recycling stations throughout the venue include three openings: one for compostable materials, one for recycling, and one for small plastics that go to landfill.

Guests toss empty beer cups, aluminum cans, foil hot-dog wrappers, uneaten garlic fries, and other items into appropriate receptacles.

Maintenance workers cart bags of separated recyclables and compostables to the heart of the stadium's recycling program, a 3,800-square-foot recycling center behind the leftfield bleachers.

Wearing rubber gloves, aprons, and masks, maintenance workers hand-sort incoming materials. These dedicated employees ensure all bottles, aluminum cans, plastic cups, and clean paper get recycled and all food scraps



**Jose Figueroa, a sorter for the S.F. Giants (above), separates aluminum cans and plastic bottles and cups into barrels for recycling. Workers also prioritize food scraps for composting. The club has won a dozen MLB Green Glove Awards for outstanding recycling rates.**



get composted.

The crew has won Major League Baseball's Green Glove Award 12 times, a record any organization or business would envy. Their success is based in a collective mindset of "passion and responsibility," said Jorge.

Turnaround times are tight, especially when the Giants play back-to-back games. "It's a big job," Jorge

said. "We are constantly looking to refine, evaluate, and learn."

Like others who consistently achieve excellence, Jorge and his team remain both focused and competitive. The 2020 Green Glove filled the last spot in their display case for environmental awards. An observer noted more shelf space may be needed in the future.

Jorge quickly replied, "We plan to keep winning."

## Neighbors give Recology driver touching send-off

Alyssa and Tracie Mastronicola and their twin boys live in the Forest Hill neighborhood of San Francisco and have enjoyed a special friendship with Recology driver David Pretari.

The family got excited every time they heard Dave's truck approaching. He always stopped to say hello to the kids.



When Alyssa learned Dave was retiring after 35 years on the route, she put out the word to neighbors and organized a surprise curbside send-off that included a "Finish Line" banner and many thank-yous and well-wishes.

Approximately 25 neighbors attended. Many customers sent cards and emails. Alyssa organized them into an album and presented it to Dave as his wife Marialena and daughter Jordan beamed with pride.

Resident Adrienne Sengpiehl commended Dave's commitment to customer care. "It has really made a difference. The connection made my Wednesdays better," she said.

"I can't even thank you guys enough," Dave said. "It has been a pleasure serving you guys and being part of this community for this long."

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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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