



# San José Business Recycling & Waste News

Details Inside!

Keep Your Bins Secure



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RECYCLING MADE EASY



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## In This Issue

- Improve Your Bin Security
- Meet Ray Padilla, Recycling Coordinator
- Plastics and Recycling



## We Can Help You Secure Your Bins

You can help us to ensure that we deliver the best service possible. Here are a few suggestions:

- Keep bins inside a locked enclosure if possible.
- If you don't have an enclosure, keep your bins out of sight and pull them out only for service.
- If neither of these options is feasible, consider using locks to secure your bins.
- Post your business' recycling bin management procedures in your recycling area and break room so all employees understand your process.
- Assign one employee to be responsible for your recycling program, including bin security.

For more tips and guidance on bin security, give us a call. Your Republic Services Recycling Coordinator is available to do a site visit, evaluate your current bin placement and enclosure, and make recommendations to keep things neat. Call your Recycling Coordinator at [408-586-2260](tel:408-586-2260) to schedule a visit.



## Foam Food Container Ordinance

**All Food Service Establishments:**  
Use Non-Foam Containers  
For Dine-In & Takeout



*Help protect the Bay and avoid citations and fines.*

[www.sanjoseca.gov/restaurants](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/restaurants)

## What Goes Where?



**WET** — Organics: food scraps, food-soiled paper products, and landscape trimmings.

**Tip:** If it was grown or raised, it goes in the **Wet** bin.



**DRY** — Everything else: bottles and cans, plastics, clean cardboard and paper, scrap metals, and non-organics.

**Tip:** If you generate a large amount of one of the **Dry** materials – glass, cardboard, plastic – switch to a Customized (White) bin for improved recycling.



## Meet Ray Padilla, Recycling Coordinator at Republic Services

**Q: How did you come to work in the recycling industry for Republic Services?**

**A:** A friend and longtime employee of Republic Services suggested that I apply to be a customer service representative and, after two years, I became a Recycling Coordinator. I've been with Republic Services for more than six years now.

**Q: What's a typical day for a Recycling Coordinator?**

**A:** Mornings are spent following up with customers via email or phone. The remainder of the day is spent in the field meeting with customers to discuss sustainability goals and make recommendations to help minimize their waste streams. I conduct audits of businesses' waste streams to customize service to meet their needs. I also provide outreach, support and training to help keep programs on track.

**Q: What one change in business practices or materials makes the biggest impact on the environment and sustainability?**

**A:** One of the best things a business can do is designate a recycling champion/leader to be in charge of the recycling program. Also, using reusable plates and utensils whenever possible and purchasing supplies in bulk are good practices for reducing waste. Lastly, it's important to clearly communicate the company's stance on environmental stewardship during new-hire orientations.

**Q: What's the most rewarding aspect of your job?**

**A:** Building relationships with our customers and being part of a team that is committed to the environment. So many of our customers want to do the right thing and it's awesome knowing that we have one of the most advanced recycling facilities in the world. It's great to work for a forward-thinking company with sustainable initiatives that positively impact our planet.

## Plastics: Recycle vs. Reuse

Republic Services recycles 3,982 tons of plastic per year for San José businesses. Fortunately, most common plastics (water bottles and cups) are easy to recycle. But the best recycling program is the one that promotes reuse to reduce the total amount of recycling waste. As a result, reusable bottles, glasses, utensils and plates are the best way to reduce the total amount of plastics that we process.

### Plastic Products and Alternatives

Plastic products have a number (1-7) stamped in the center of three arrows. This is what's known as the Resin Identification Code, which identifies the grade of plastic for recycling. When it comes to recycling, some plastics are easier to process than others.

	Name	Common Use	Ease of Recycling	Better Choice
	Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)		Difficult	
	Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE)		Moderate	
	Polystyrene (PS)		Difficult	

### When You Can't Reuse

Whenever possible, purchase plastic items made from easily recyclable grades of plastic – shoot for codes 1 and 2. Always look for opportunities to purchase products with post-consumer recycled plastic content. Better still, select compostable paper and bamboo rather than plastic. To get expert advice on optimizing your plastics and implementing better, more sustainable alternatives, contact your Recycling Coordinator at **408-586-2260**. He or she is always happy to help.



## Illegal Dumping: If You See It, Report It

Illegal dumping is the unlawful disposal of any type of waste on public or private property. It is not only an eyesore but also dangerous if it blocks roads or alleys. So when you see it, take pictures, make a note of the address, and send an email to: [reportdumpers@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:reportdumpers@sanjoseca.gov)

## Take a Short Survey and Tell Us What You Think



It's easy. It only takes a minute or two. And it's the best way to help us improve our service. Don't wait, take the survey today.

[surveymonkey.com/r/RepublicSCCO](https://surveymonkey.com/r/RepublicSCCO)

## We're Here to Help

- Connect with your dedicated Recycling Coordinator.
- Get FREE desk-side recycling boxes, labels, window stickers, and more.
- Use our FREE online poster generator at [recyclingpostergenerator.com](https://recyclingpostergenerator.com) to create signage that meets the needs of your business.
- Schedule FREE waste audits and staff trainings.

**We'll make it happen –  
just call Republic Services at  
408-586-2260.**