

Ecology Center's Story

Founded in 1969, the Ecology Center has worked for more than over five decades to create healthier, more sustainable communities in Berkeley and beyond. Through education, advocacy, hands-on programs, and strong community partnerships, we help residents turn ideals into everyday action.

We envision a world where human activity nurtures the ecosystems we all depend on – a world of sustainable cities, empowered and resilient communities, zero waste, and zero toxics, equal access to healthy food, sustainable resource use, and a safe and stable climate.

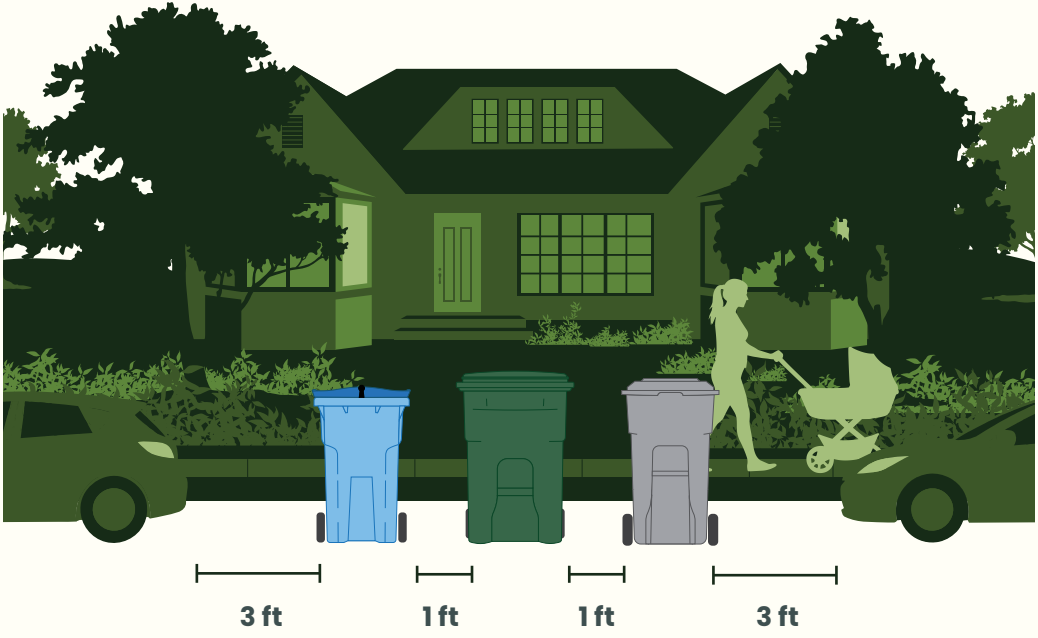
Our work includes residential curbside recycling, farmers' markets, youth leadership programs, climate equity initiatives, and a local store that provides sustainable living products and environmental information. We also provide statewide leadership by convening the California Alliance of Farmers' Markets and administering Market Match, which doubles the value of CalFresh benefits at farmers' markets across California.

As Berkeley's recycling provider since 1973, the Ecology Center helped pioneer one of the first residential curbside recycling programs in the United States. What began as a small, community-driven effort grew into a model that inspired cities across the country. When you sort your recyclables correctly, you are supporting a program with deep local roots and a national legacy of environmental stewardship.

We provide curbside recycling under contract with the City of Berkeley, and the service is funded through refuse fee revenues. Your participation keeps valuable materials out of landfills, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthens a community based recycling system. Today, every blue cart in Berkeley reflects decades of innovation, environmental leadership, and the commitment of residents who believe in a zero waste future.

Cart Set Out Requirements

Carts must be at the curb by **7AM** on your scheduled service day, and removed from the curb within 24 hours of pickup.



Place carts street-level with wheels toward the curb. If your collection day is street sweeping day, place carts on the parking strip. **Never block the sidewalk.** Space Carts 1 foot apart between carts and 3 feet from parked cars.

Reporting a Missed Pick-Up

For Compost & Landfill missed pick-ups, report by 5:00 PM the following day. Contact Berkeley Zero Waste (510) 981-7270 or visit berkeleyca.gov to report online.

Holiday Schedule

When a holiday falls on a weekday, collection is delayed by one day for the rest of that week.

For Recycling missed pick-ups, contact the Ecology Center at (510) 527-5555 or visit ecologycenter.org to report online

No collection service will be provided on **Thanksgiving, Christmas** or **New Year's Day.**



WELCOME PACKET for Berkeley Residents

Your Guide to Successful:

- Cardboard and Paper Recycling
- Container & Bottle Recycling • Composting
- Bulky Item Management • Landfill
- Household Hazardous Waste



full guide + updates



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- ecologycenter.org

Ecology Center recycling services are provided under contract by the City of Berkeley



Welcome to Berkeley! Let this packet serve as your guide for composting, recycling, and bulky item management—using the most current local and statewide requirements.

The Ecology Center has operated Berkeley's Curbside Recycling Program since 1973. As a mission-driven nonprofit, we prioritize reliable service, clear guidance, and accurate recycling information.

Thank You for Recycling and Composting!

Who Provides Your Service



Zero Waste Division services your compost and landfill carts. For residential properties with **10+ units**, they also handle recycling, composting and landfill collection



Customer Service Center
(510) 981-7270
customerservice@berkeleyca.gov
berkeleyca.gov/zerowaste



ecology center

Ecology Center provides and services your recycling cart for **1-9 unit** residential properties.



Recycling Hotline
(510) 527-5555
recycling@ecologycenter.org

California Recycling and Compost Laws

SB 1383 aims to keep recyclable and compostable materials out of landfills to reduce emissions that contribute to climate change. In Alameda County, the law is implemented and enforced under the Organics Reduction and Recycling Ordinance, in partnership with StopWaste.

SB 1383, AB 341, AB 1826, and Berkeley Municipal Codes 12.32, 12.34, 12.35, 12.36, 12.38

Residents must maintain compost, recycling, and landfill services.

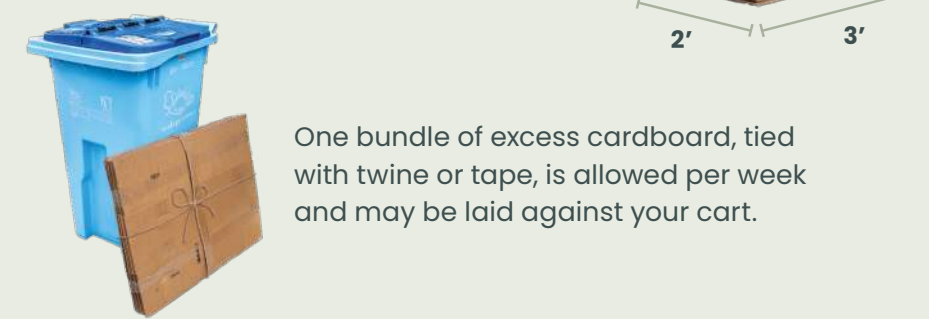
How to Sort Your Recycling

- Paper and Cardboard**
Paper and cardboard; craft paper; junk mail.
 - Keep fiber clean and dry
 - Flatten cardboard
 - No wet/food-soiled paper
 - Place shredded paper in paper bag and staple top, label 'shred'
 - Flatten Cardboard, do not wedge.
- Cans and Bottles**
Glass bottles and jars, tin cans, aluminum cans, and foil.
 - **#1 and #2 plastics** are accepted.
 - Empty and drip-free.
 - Don't place recyclables in plastic bags.
 - Keep items loose in cart



Extra Cardboard Management

Flatten cardboard, keep it clean and dry, and if it doesn't fit in your cart, make one **1'x2'x3' ft bundle** secured with twine or packing tape. Max weight 25 LBS



Still have extra cardboard?

Free Public Drop-off
Berkeley Recycling Center
669 Gilman St
Berkeley, CA 94710

Dual-Stream Recycling

Berkeley uses a dual-stream recycling system. Our trucks use a split-chute system to keep these materials separated, which improves sorting quality and supports higher-value end uses for recycled materials.



Please sort recycling into two categories:

- Paper & Cardboard:** Clean, Dry Paper • Cardboard • Molded Fiber
- Cans & Bottles:** Glass Bottles & Jars Cans • Foil • Rigid Plastic Containers



Do not wedge cardboard - flatten and tie up **1'x2'x3' bundle** of excess cardboard per week and place next to your cart.

Clean, empty and dry containers. Save water - wipe clean with spatula or napkin.

Do not place these items in your Recycling cart

- food-soiled or waxed material
- liquid or food or plastic film
- plastic bag
- dishware • ceramics window glass
- juice or milk cartons
- hazardous or electronic waste

Food Scraps Composting

Compost is required under SB 1383. Keep food scraps out of the landfill.

- Best practices:**
- Use a kitchen pail with a lid
 - Keep compost loose
 - Line pail with newspaper and BPI Certified Bags
 - Keep odors down by emptying often and rinsing the pail



Kitchen Scrap Pails
To request, contact City of Berkeley Customer Service at **510-981-7270**

Compost: Food Scraps • Food-soiled Paper • Coffee Grounds • Plant Yard Debris



Compostable materials must be loose or placed in paper bags or newspaper or BPI certified Compostable bags.

Do not place these items in your Compost cart

- plastic bags or plastic film
- pet waste or diapers
- ashes or dirt
- hazardous or electronic waste
- glass • liquids
- styrofoam or small plastics

Reducing waste in Berkeley is as easy as 1, 2, 3, 4!

1st Reuse
Urban Ore
900 Murray Street, Berkeley, CA 94710 | **(510) 841-7283** | urbanore.com
Accepts building materials and household goods in usable condition. Located at the Berkeley EcoPark.

2nd Recycle
Berkeley Recycling Center
669 Gilman St, Berkeley, CA 94710 (Corner of 2nd St)
(510) 524-0113 | berkeleyrecycling.org
Accepts appliances, large recyclables, and more. See website for details.

3rd Compost & Landfill
Berkeley Transfer Station
1201 Second St, Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 981-7270 | berkeleyca.gov/transferstation
Accepts yard waste/landscaping debris, food scraps and food-soiled paper for composting, refrigerated appliances, clean carpet, construction and demolition materials, and more.

Bulky Item Management
1-4 Unit Residential Buildings Only Property owners can schedule one free bulky waste pick-up per calendar year. Contact City of Berkeley customer service to schedule your appointment. For more info, go to berkeleyca.gov and search 'bulky waste'.

Mattress Drop-Off
1-9 Unit Residential Buildings Drop off up to two mattresses free of charge and 18 dollars for each additional mattress at the Berkeley Transfer Station or contact City of Berkeley Customer Service for a curbside pick-up.

4th Household Hazardous Waste
Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
2100 East 7th Street, Oakland, CA 94606
(800) 606-6606 | stopwaste.org/hhw
Alameda County residents can drop off household hazardous waste for free at any of four facilities — no appointment needed.

E-Waste Collective
620 Page St, Berkeley, CA 94710
ewastecollective.org | **(415) 883-1428**
Accepts electronic waste.



City of Berkeley Free Resources

Fire Fuel Chipper & Vegetation Debris Bin Program
Reserve chipping services online to dispose of plant debris. Residents who pay a fire district surcharge can request a debris bin by calling Customer Service or searching "vegetation debris" on berkeleyca.gov.

Free Compost
Available for pick-up year-round at the Berkeley Marina, located behind the double tree inn. Bring your own shovels and containers.



Free Produce Bags
Produce bags are available by contacting the City of Berkeley at 510-981-7270

Free Recycling Caddy Bags
Recycling Caddy Bags are available to residents who need help carrying recyclables from home to cart



Additional Resources

Unsure of what goes where? Have excess stuff?



Resourceful gives you specific local information you need to recycle and dispose of over 150 items.

Use the Alameda County RE:Source guide for nearby reuse, repair, recycling, and safe disposal options.