

HEADLINE: November 15th is America Recycles Day

On November 15th we once again celebrate “America Recycles Day.” The residents and businesses of Santa Barbara have made great progress on recycling in recent years, but we still have plenty of room to improve. Every day we send 25 truckloads of trash down the Gaviota Coast to be buried in the landfill.

The best estimates are that half the material making its way to Tajiguas landfill could actually be recycled. Our effective recycling rate at the curb is just 39%. Since yours is the last hand to touch the brown-bin trash, we need everyone’s participation. Each time we place an item in the blue bin or take part in a special collection, we keep that trash out of our landfill.

Fortunately, the City’s new trash and recycling contract with Marborg makes it easier than ever for all of us to recycle at home and at work.

So Much Room in the Blue Bin

If you take a minute to peek in your nearest trash can, you will surely spot many items that are recyclable. Did you know that we currently accept in the blue bin:

- **All** glass containers
- **All** plastic (of any number)
- **All** paper and cardboard
- **All** metal

And that includes

- Plastic bags and packaging
- Milk cartons and “tetra pak”

For instance, film plastic bags are now being recycled into fences, decks, and shopping carts. Did you know that an aluminum can might make its way from the recycling bin to the store shelf as a new can in as few as 60 days?

For a behind-the-scenes look at how our recycling program works, watch [this YouTube video](#) produced by City TV.

Expanded City Collections

For City residences, we now have special programs in place to collect batteries, cell phones, medical sharps, furniture, and appliances. Collection of all that stuff is included with your trash service. We can even help ensure that your e-waste, fluorescent light bulbs, and paint are recycled responsibly. Call MarBorg at 963-1852 for more details.

For Santa Barbara businesses, and now for larger multi-unit buildings, we can also add the foodscrap composting program. The “yellow bin” can gobble up produce, meat, paper towels, and coffee grounds, which for some cafes, restaurants, and groceries can represent up to 50% of their waste. Call City Trash & Recycling at 564-5631 for more details.

So this November 15th, join people around the county for America Recycles Day. Step up your recycling game and help keep Santa Barbara beautiful!