

City of Albany ZERO WASTE 101

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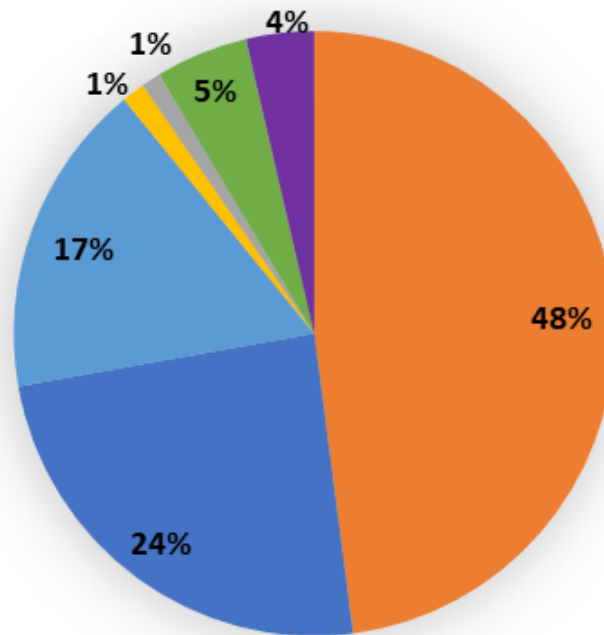
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Overview

- We will NOT be taking questions during the presentation.
 - Please save your questions until the end.
 - If we do not have time to cover your question, please email it to ecarrade@albanyca.org.
- All Albany waste and recycling program information can be found at www.AlbanyCA.org/RECYCLE
- This presentation will not cover ALL topics related to zero waste – just a beginner’s overview.
 - For more information, visit calrecycle.ca.gov or stopwaste.org.
- There will be a QUIZ at the end. Answer a question correctly and you may have an opportunity to win a zero waste prize!

The BIG Picture

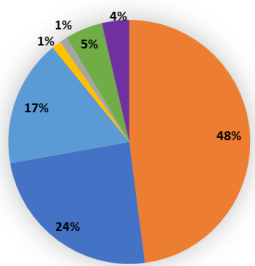
2021 Emissions by Source



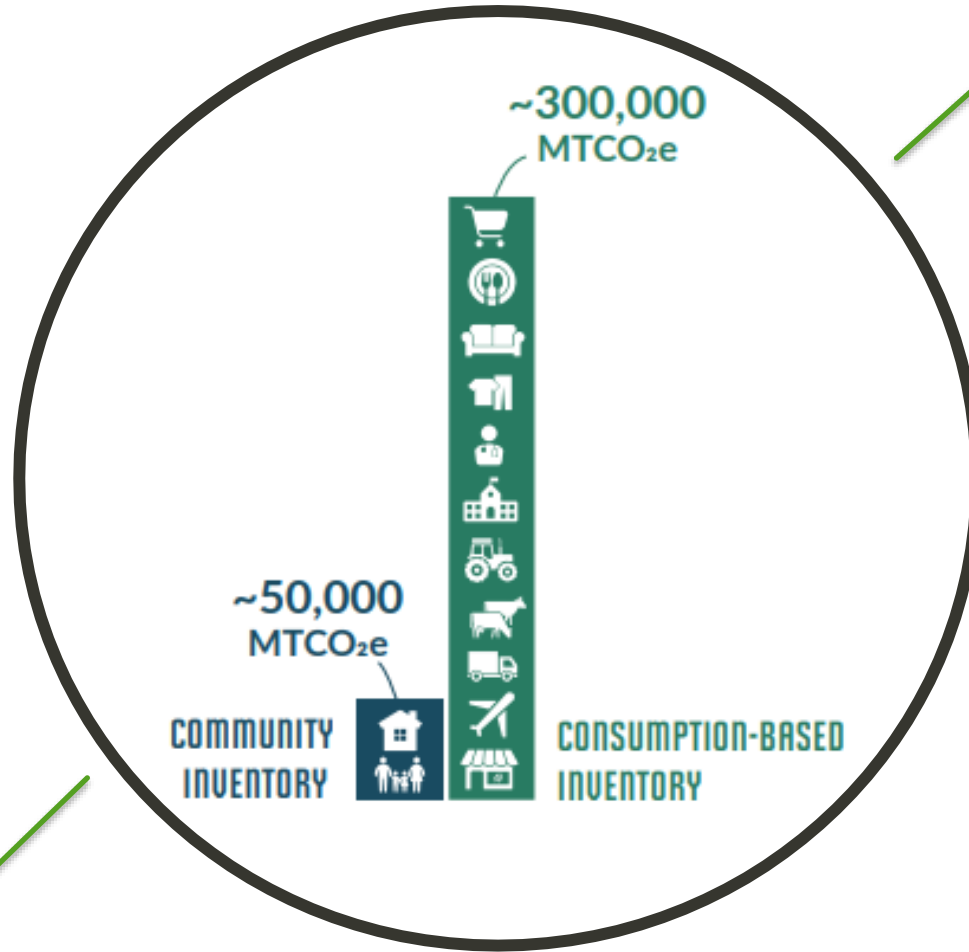
- Transportation
- Residential Gas
- Non-Res Gas
- Residential Electricity
- Non-Res Electricity
- Offroad
- Waste

The BIG Picture

2021 Emissions by Source

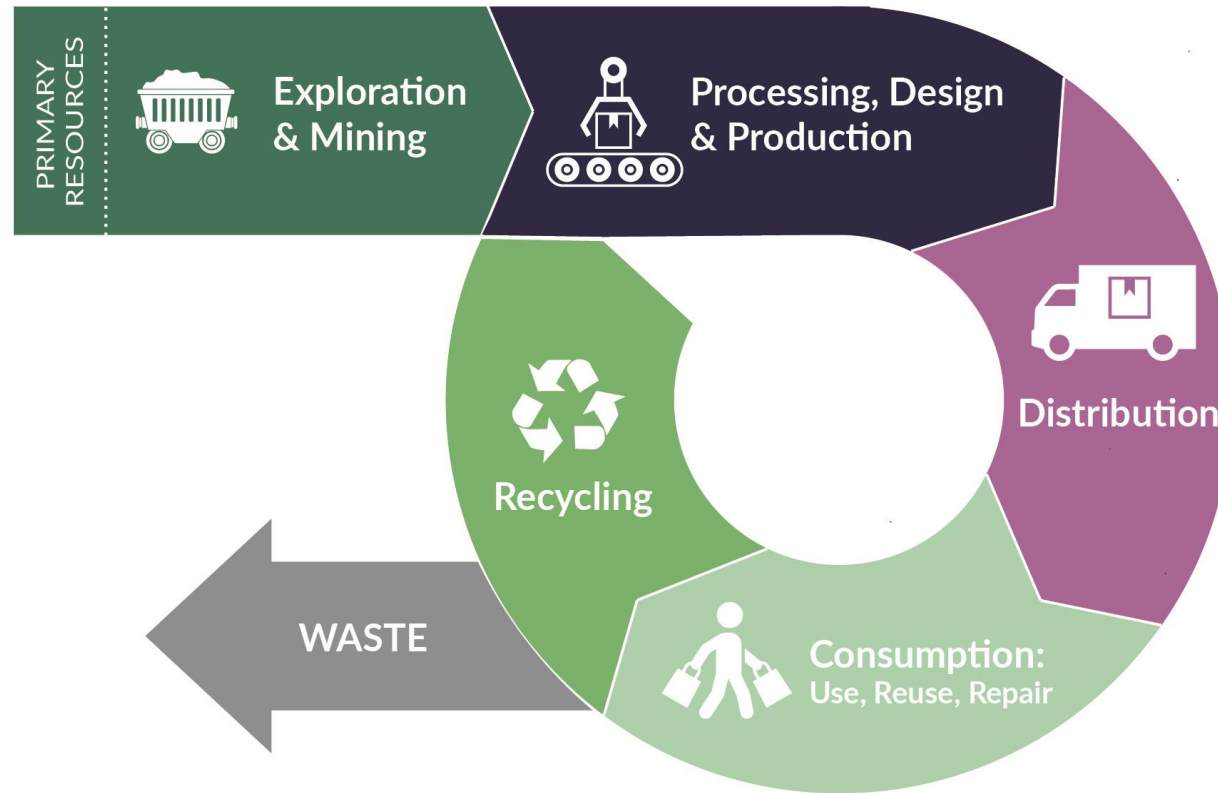


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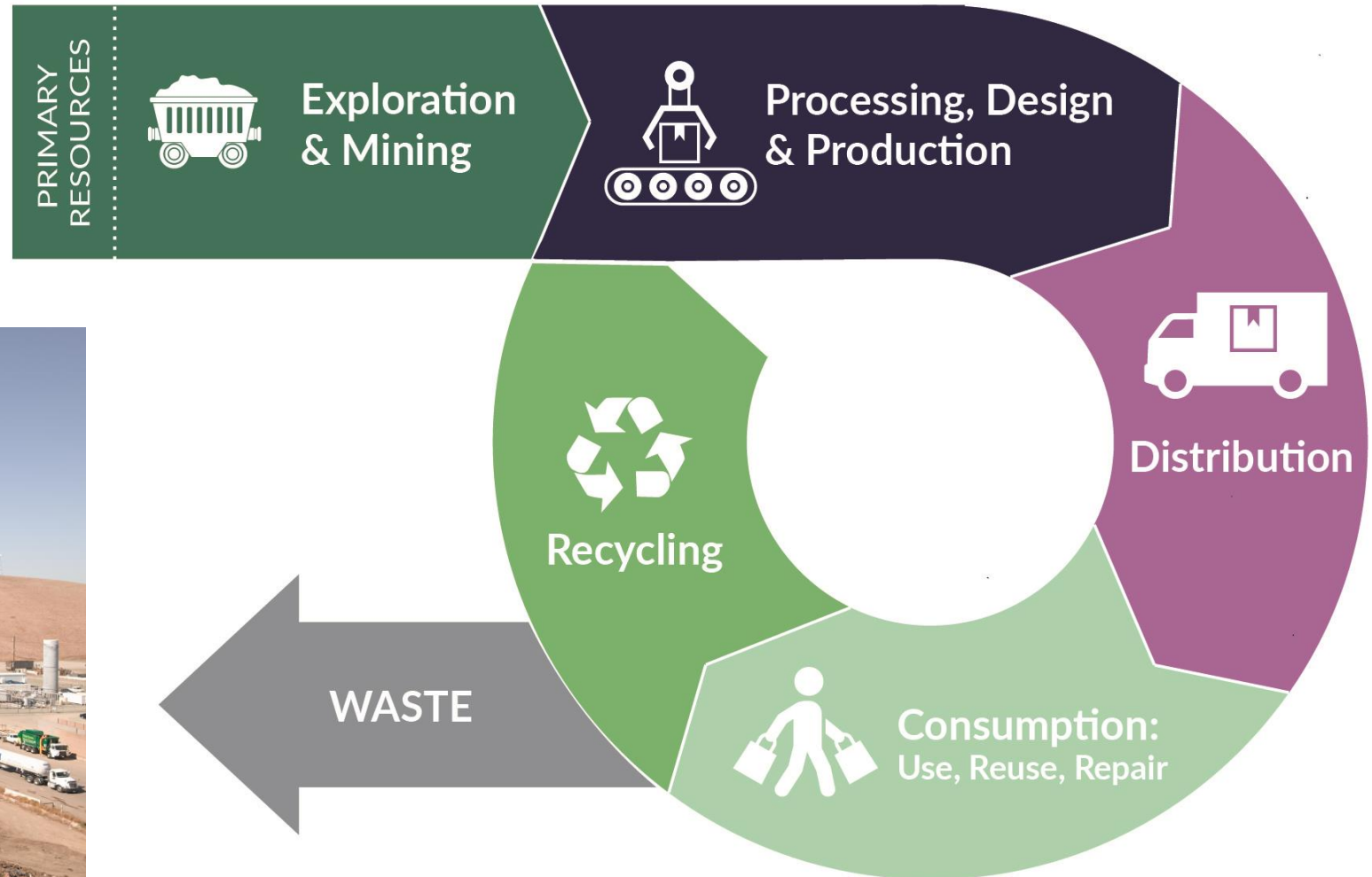
- Air travel
- Consumable goods
- Food
- Housing
- Transportation fuel

The BIG Picture



The BIG Picture

Altamont Landfill, Livermore



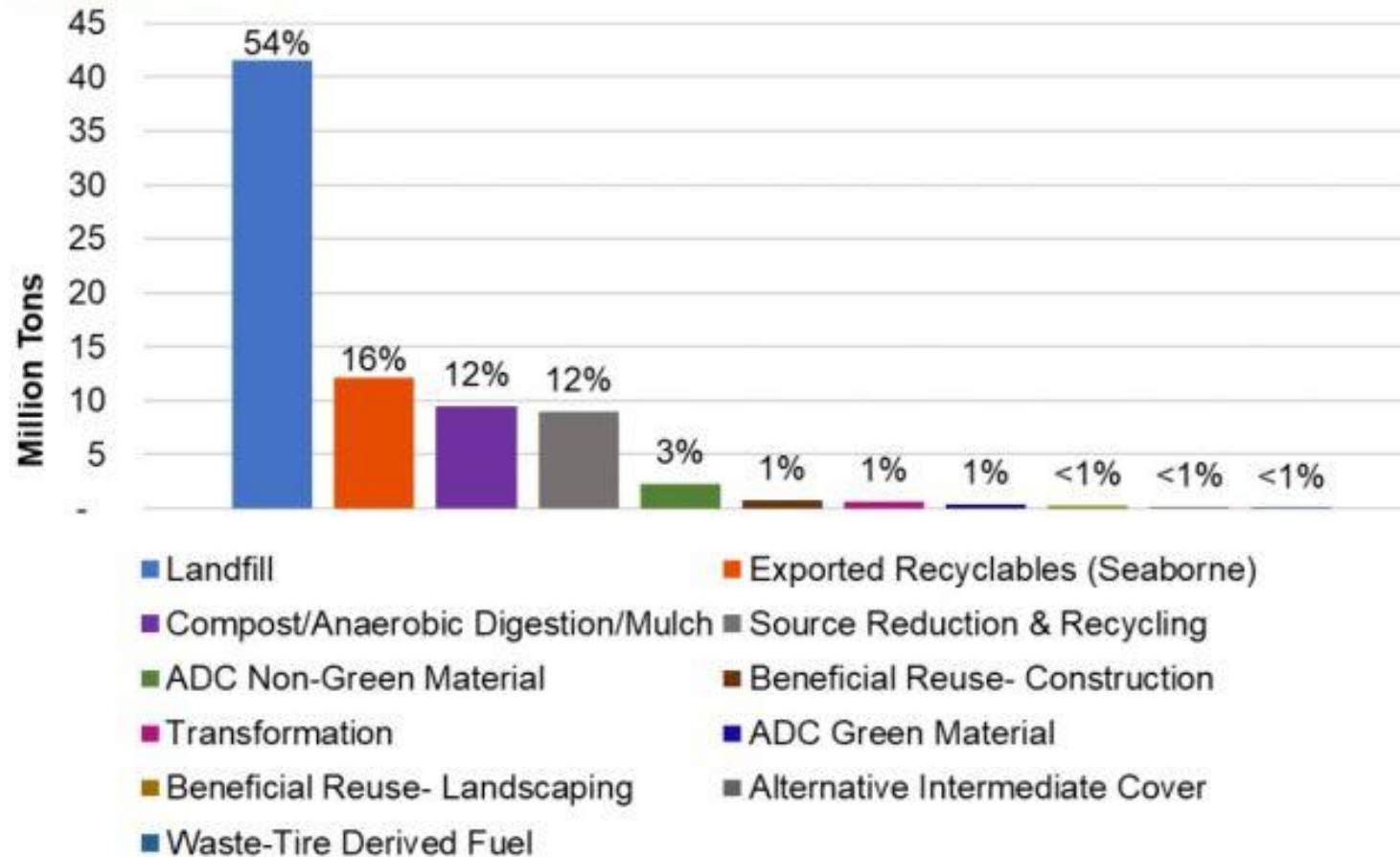
The BIG Picture

- CalRecycle (California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery) 2021 State of Disposal and Recycling Report
 - Overall waste generation (including recycling and composting) **76.7 million tons**
 - 41.5 million tons ended up in **landfills (54%)**
 - **16% exported** to other countries as recyclables
 - **12% composted**
 - **12% recycled** in the United States
 - Statewide per capita disposal rate of **6.4 lbs of trash per day**

Source: 2021 State of Disposal and Recycling Report
<https://calrecycle.ca.gov/reports/stateof/>

The BIG Picture

Figure 1. Estimated Management of 76.7 Million Tons of Materials Generated in California in 2021



How to Reduce Landfill Waste

- **Refuse / Reduce**
 - Bring your own bags, cups, utensils, containers; refuse to purchase items that come in heavy packaging
- **Reuse**
 - Give items a new life in a meaningful way that reduces upstream consumption
- **Recycle**
 - Be conscious recycler; know that recycling is not the answer.
- **Rot**
 - Compost food scraps and yard waste.

How to Reduce Landfill Waste

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RECYCLING

What Goes in the RECYCLING?

PAPER

- Clean cardboard (no food/oil stains)
 - NOT pizza boxes or doughnut boxes
- Mail, newspaper, magazines
- Paper cartons (milk cartons)
- Shiny/coated paper boxes (e.g. frozen food boxes)



RECYCLE



Clean paper & cardboard
(please break down)



Paper packaging



Glass bottles & jars



Cans, foil, & scrap metal



Plastic bottles



Rigid plastic containers

What Goes in the RECYCLING?

GLASS & METAL

- Glass jars and bottles
- Steel and aluminum cans
- Aluminum foil

- These items should be empty, clean, and dry.



RECYCLE



Clean paper & cardboard
(please break down)



Paper packaging



Glass bottles & jars



Cans, foil, & scrap metal



Plastic bottles



Rigid plastic containers

What Goes in the RECYCLING?

PLASTIC

- Rigid plastics (e.g. plastic bottles, yogurt containers)
- Condiment containers
- Plastic jugs
- These items should be empty, clean, and dry.



RECYCLE



Clean paper & cardboard
(please break down)



Paper packaging



Glass bottles & jars



Cans, foil, & scrap metal



Plastic bottles



Rigid plastic containers

What Does NOT Go In the RECYCLING?

- Plastic clamshells/to-go containers
- Plastic film and plastic bags
 - Flimsy plastics – try the squeeze test
- Plastic utensils and straws
- Styrofoam
- Paper mixed with plastic
 - Ice cream cartons, coffee cups, juice boxes
- “Compostable plastics”
 - These items are NOT processed as compost in Albany’s waste stream.



*Do NOT bag recyclables in plastic bags. Bagged recyclables may not get processed and are more likely to end up in the landfill.



**NO PLASTIC BAGS
OR WRAP**



**NO FOOD-SOILED
PAPER**

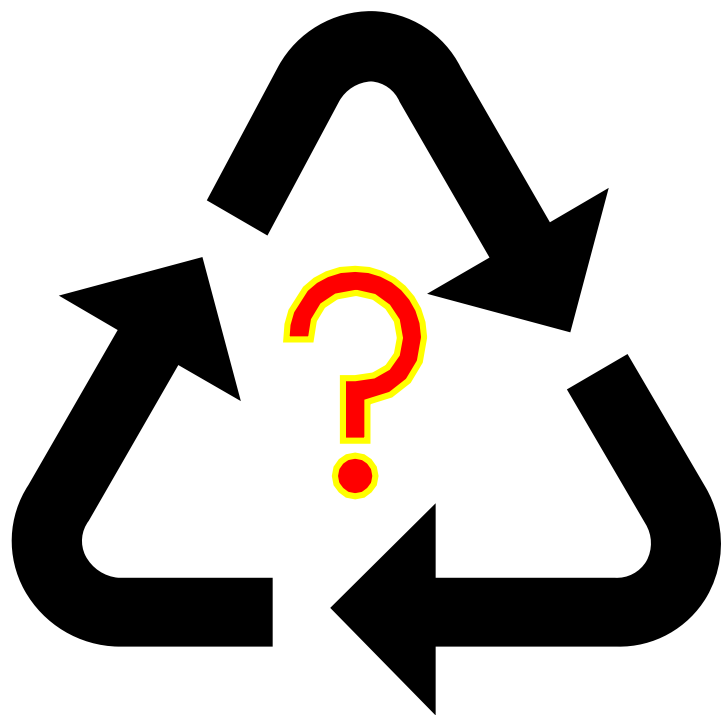


**NO FOOD
OR LIQUIDS**



NO BATTERIES

The Chasing Arrows Myth



- Regardless of what number (1-7) is depicted, the chasing arrows symbol **does NOT mean that something is recyclable**
- Numbers = Resin Identification Numbers
- Identifies what raw materials (combination of petroleum and other chemicals) are in the material
- System developed by the **Society of the Plastics Industry**, NOT recyclers
- For the typical consumer, chasing arrows and number **should be disregarded**

“Wishcycling”

- Wishcycling occurs when someone places something (typically plastic) in the recycling bin in **hopes that it will be recycled**
- The issues with Wishcycling:
 - **Contamination** of recycling loads, which can lead to actual recyclables being landfilled
 - **Damage** of critical recycling equipment, without which other recyclables cannot be sorted
 - **Overconsumption** of non-recyclable items
- Commonly wishcycled goods:
 - Plastic film and plastic bags
 - Plastic bubble packaging
 - Plastic food ware (utensils, clamshells)

What DOES Make Something Recyclable?

- **It depends!**
- Main factors:
 - **Sorting and processing** factors
 - **Demand** for that product
 - Ability to turn it into **something new**
 - Demand for **post-consumer recycled** products

The Most Recyclable Items



Plastic bottles & containers (empty)



Metal Cans (empty), clean foil, & scrap metal



Glass bottles & jars (empty)



Paper packaging & paper cartons



Clean paper & cardboard
(Please break down)



Do not bag recyclables
(To ensure that recyclables can be
processed by sorting equipment)

COMPOST/ORGANICS

SB 1383 & Mandatory Composting

- SB 1383 Overarching Goals:
 - Reduce organic waste disposal 75% by 2025
 - Rescue surplus food that is otherwise wasted
- Why it is important:
 - Organic waste in landfills emits 20% of state's methane (methane 84x more potent than CO2) and air pollutants such as PM 2.5
 - Organic waste (food scraps, yard waste, paper & cardboard) make up 50% of what is sent to California landfills
 - Reducing short-lived climate pollutants, including methane, have *fastest impact on curbing climate crisis in both the near term and long term*
 - Providing edible & delicious food to those in need



Image from CalRecycle

How Does This Affect Albany Residents?

- Composting and recycling is **MANDATORY** for all Albany residents and businesses
- Residents and businesses **MUST** place proper materials in proper bins



Uh-oh!

We noticed some contamination in your **ORGANICS** cart.

Please review the following information so you may properly sort your **non-compostable** items:

The poster features a green background with a white circle at the top left and the City of Albany logo at the top right. Below the text is a circular image of a green trash bin.



Oops!

We noticed some contamination in your **RECYCLING** cart.

Please review the following information so you may properly sort your **non-recyclable** items:

The poster features a blue background with a white circle at the top left and the City of Albany logo at the top right. Below the text is a circular image of a grey recycling bin.



Uh-oh!

We noticed some non-trash items in your **LANDFILL** cart.

Please review the following information so you may properly sort your **non-landfill** items:

The poster features a red background with a white circle at the top left and the City of Albany logo at the top right. Below the text is a circular image of a red landfill bin.

What Goes in the COMPOST?

FOOD

- Food scraps, **including meat bones and egg shells**
- Meal leftovers
- Coffee grounds and coffee filters
- Ends and stems from fruits and vegetables



ORGANICS



All food waste,
peels, pits, & cores



Bones & shells



Plant debris
& clean wood



Coffee grounds
& tea bags



Uncoated Paper take-
out & pizza boxes,
egg cartons



Uncoated food-soiled
paper

What Goes in the COMPOST?

FOOD-SOILED PAPER

- Pizza boxes and doughnut boxes (oil makes it non-recyclable)
- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper egg cartons
- Unlined (no plastic coating) paper take-out boxes and containers
- Unlined (no plastic) paper plates
- Wood/bamboo plates and utensils
- Shredded paper



ORGANICS



All food waste,
peels, pits, & cores



Bones & shells



Plant debris
& clean wood



Coffee grounds
& tea bags



Uncoated Paper take-
out & pizza boxes,
egg cartons



Uncoated food-soiled
paper

What Goes in the COMPOST?

YARD WASTE, PLANT TRIMMINGS, PLANT WASTE

- Leaves
- Grass trimmings
- Plant debris
- Clean, untreated wood



ORGANICS



All food waste,
peels, pits, & cores



Bones & shells



Plant debris
& clean wood



Coffee grounds
& tea bags



Uncoated Paper take-
out & pizza boxes,
egg cartons



Uncoated food-soiled
paper

What Does NOT Go in the COMPOST?

- Plastic film
- Glass
- Pet waste & human waste
- “Compostable” or “Biodegradable” plastics
 - Even if BPI certified
 - Even if accepted in neighboring jurisdictions
 - If they wind up in Albany’s compost stream, they are screened out and/or become contaminants as if they were regular plastics; when they end up in landfill, they emit methane



Why Won't Albany Accept Compostable Plastics?

- WMAC compost is OMRI certified; best for quality gardening, farmland, etc.
- Limit contamination in compost
 - Bioplastics contaminate loads the same as regular plastics; **they simply don't break down.**



Then How Do I Collect Food Scraps?



- No bag – wash the pail! Save money on bags.
- Paper bag
- Newspaper
- Add shredded paper to the bottom of the pail to absorb moisture
- Keep a paper bag in the freezer
- Reuse a regular plastic bag, dump out organics, and throw plastic bag in the landfill

Where to Find FREE Compost in Albany



- UC Gill Tract Community Farm
 - Open Sundays 12PM-4PM
 - FREE
 - Bring your own container/bag/bucket to carry it home
- Annual Compost Giveaway in Spring
 - WMAC OMRI certified compost

LANDFILL

What Goes in the LANDFILL?

- Flimsy plastic/plastic film
- Disposable gloves
- Broken glass and ceramics
- Plastic coated plates, cups (coffee cups), waxed cardboard
- Polystyrene foam
- "Compostable" or "Biodegradable" plastics
- Plastic utensils, straws



TRASH



Drink & food cartons,
boxes / pouches
(Multi-material Packaging)



Loose plastic bags/wrap,
disposable gloves



Broken glassware & ceramics,
plastic straws, lids & utensils
(Reusable items should be donated)



Coated paper products,
waxed cardboard



Hoses & wires



Polystyrene foam

How to Reduce Landfill Waste

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- **Reuse**

- Give items a new life in a meaningful way that reduces upstream consumption

- **Recycle**

- Be conscious recycler; know that recycling is not the answer.

- **Rot**

- Compost food scraps and yard waste.

How to Reduce Landfill Waste

- **Swap** single-use, or even “compostable” or “recyclable” items for reusable items
 - Reusable cups, straws, utensils, to-go containers, grocery bags and produce bags
- **Reuse** items you already have
 - Reuse plastic produce bags, plastic containers as to-go containers; zero waste doesn't have to require buying new things
 - Expand the life of items by repairing
- **Refuse** items that are heavily packaged or do not have options for reuse or recycling when possible
 - Vote with your dollar
- **Research** options for **repair, donation, reuse** of items you no longer need
- Purchase **post-consumer recycled** products
 - Paper products
 - Plastic products
- Purchase **secondhand** goods; **borrow** from a neighbor or friend
- Know that it is not always easy.
- **Be kind** to those around you who are trying to reduce waste themselves.

POP QUIZ!



True or False: Recyclables can be bagged in plastic bags for curbside collection.

POP QUIZ!

- **Instructions:**

- On a notecard, write down the waste stream you think the item belongs in (**Compost/Organics, Recycling, Landfill**)
- **WRITE YOUR NAME** on the notecard
- Place your notecard in the container corresponding to each item
- Return to your seat
- Correct answers will be randomly drawn for the chance to win a **zero-waste prize!**

POP QUIZ!



Item 1: BPI
Compostable
plastic cup



Item 2:
Oily
pizza
box

****WRITE YOUR
NAME ON
YOUR ANSWER
NOTE CARD!**



Item 3: Mixed
material
bubble
envelopes



Item 4:
Aluminum
can

True or False:
Recyclables can
be bagged in
plastic bags for
curbside
collection.













LANDFILL!





True or False: Recyclables can be bagged in plastic bags for curbside collection.

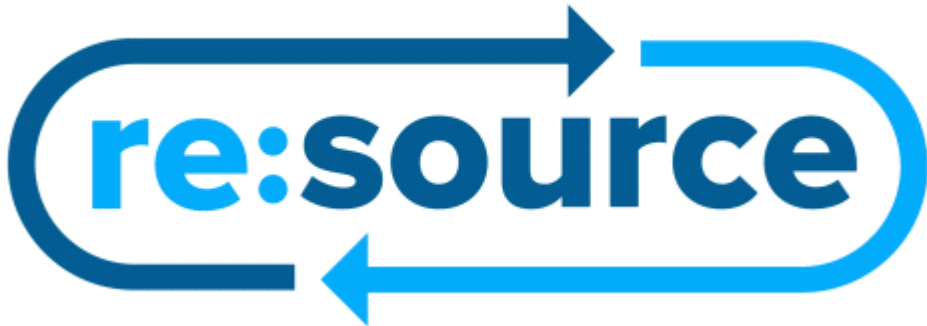
True or False: Recyclables can be bagged in plastic bags.

FALSE



Additional Resources

- For questions about **specific items** and which streams they belong in:
- StopWaste RE:Source Guide
 - **Resource.StopWaste.org**
 - Type in almost any item and find proper disposal options and instructions



- For questions about **Waste Management services**:
 - www.Albany.wm.com
 - 510-613-8710



**All Albany program information:
www.AlbanyCA.org/RECYCLE**

Thank You.

ecarrade@albanyca.org
www.AlbanyCA.org/RECYCLE