



**EDCO**

[edcodisposal.com](http://edcodisposal.com)

*"We'll Take Care of It"*

A Guide to EDCO's New Organics Recycling Program

# Organics Recycling

Starting April 1, 2021

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## Questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact our office via email, text, web, or phone and communicate with a customer service representative. EDCO will answer any questions you may have about our new organics recycling program and try to resolve any situations you may come across. Remember, just call EDCO and *"We'll Take Care of It!"*



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# What Goes in the Green Cart?



Organic waste (also referred to as organics), which includes food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, non-hazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste, will be collected all mixed together in your green organics cart.

If it grows, it goes!



## Food Scraps

Cooked or raw meat, poultry and seafood (including bones), cheese, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, grains, pasta, egg shells, bread, coffee grounds, tea bags, tea leaves, baked goods, nuts, jelly, candy, snack foods, leftovers, spoiled food.

### How to Collect

- Use a kitchen caddy, see page 3.
- Place food scraps directly in your cart (loose or in paper bags) and ensure the lid closes. **Please do not use any kind of plastic bags!**

### What to Avoid

Do not include liquids, plastic, glass, metals, Styrofoam.

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## Food-Soiled Paper

Paper bags, paper napkins, paper towels, paper plates, paper cups, paper take-out containers and take-out boxes (with no plastic or wax coating, and with metal removed), coffee filters, tissues.

### How to Collect

- Paper can be dry or wet.
- Place food-soiled paper directly in your cart (loose or in paper bags) and ensure the lid closes.



## Keep these items out of your green cart!

Prohibited items cannot break down, or cause a safety hazard for collection crews. Check the list below to find out what to **KEEP OUT** of your green cart:



# KEEP OUT

- Aluminum
- Animal carcasses
- Cigarette butts & ashes
- Clothing
- Diapers
- Dirt
- Glass
- Hazardous waste







**Can I use plastic bags for organics, even if they are biodegradable plastic?**

**No, please do not use any kind of plastic bags** for any type of green waste, food waste or other organics, as they contaminate the Anaerobic Digester! All organic material must be placed loosely inside the organics cart for collection. Paper bags are acceptable.

## Yard Waste

Grass clippings, small branches, small tree limbs, tree roots, flowers, leaves, plants, straw.

### How to Collect

- Place yard trimmings directly in your cart (loose or in paper bags) and ensure the lid closes.

### What to Avoid

No rocks, dirt, soil, tree stumps, or plastic bags.



## Natural Fibers

Popsicle sticks, sawdust, toothpicks, wooden chopsticks, untreated wood.

### How to Collect

- Place natural fibers directly in your can (loose or in paper bags) and ensure the lid closes.



## Need More Green Carts?

Residents can request up to two (2) additional green organics carts at no additional cost. Residents who have three (3) green carts and want additional green carts may request more for a monthly fee. Order fast and easy online at [edcodisposal.com](http://edcodisposal.com) through the Contact EDCO tab to request additional green organics carts.

- Kitty litter
- Landscape timbers
- Liquids
- Medical waste
- Metal
- Pet waste
- Plastic bags or film
- Plastic containers
- Plastic Straws
- Rocks
- Soil
- Styrofoam
- Trash
- Treated or painted lumber
- Tree stumps
- Treated or painted wood
- Wine corks

# Collecting Your Food Scraps

Collect food scraps in any container for an easy way to set aside leftovers for your green organics cart. Coffee cans, plastic food storage containers, or kitchen caddies can be used.



## STEP 1

Keep your kitchen container in a convenient location in your kitchen, such as on the counter top, under the sink or in the freezer.



## STEP 2

While cooking or cleaning up, place leftover food scraps and food-soiled paper into your kitchen container.



## STEP 3

Empty the contents of your kitchen container into your green cart when it's full and before you set out the cart each week.

## Avoid the "Yuck" in a Kitchen Organics Collection Container

### These tips may help reduce odors:

- Wrap food scraps in a paper towel or old newspaper.
- Line your kitchen organics collector container with a paper bag or newspaper to absorb moisture and manage odors in your kitchen caddy.
- Collect food scraps in a cereal box or tissue box. Be sure to remove any plastic lining.
- Sprinkle baking soda inside of the kitchen organics collector container.
- Wash your kitchen organics collector container in the dishwasher or by hand after emptying it into your green cart.



## Optional Kitchen Caddies are Available

A kitchen caddy is a designated container specifically for the internal collection of organics in your home. Any reusable container can be used as a kitchen caddy, but EDCO also has an optional free kitchen caddy for your household use. **Please visit our website, [edcodisposal.com](http://edcodisposal.com), and visit the Residential Service's Organics page to learn more about how to place an order.**





## How do I get my food scraps from my kitchen to the organics cart?

There are many different ways to cleanly move food scraps from your kitchen to your organics cart. Here are some of the most popular options:

**Wrap Your Scraps!** - Many people find wrapping food waste in any type of non-wax paper, such as paper towels, packing paper, newspaper, or paper bags, is an easy way to move food waste from inside your kitchen to your organics cart. This is especially true for large quantities of fruit, meat, etc., and you can even leave the scraps wrapped in the paper and then just drop it into the organics cart. **Please do not use any kind of plastic bags!**

**Kitchen Caddies** - A kitchen caddy is an optional container that can be placed under your kitchen sink or another convenient area for your household to use. Any reusable container can be used as a kitchen caddy, but EDCO also has an optional free kitchen caddy for your household use. Kitchen caddies lock to keep odors in and once full, can be taken to your organics cart and emptied onto the green waste. After emptying, it can be washed out and is dishwasher safe. **To receive a free EDCO kitchen caddy, please visit our website, [edcodisposal.com](http://edcodisposal.com), and visit the Residential Service's Organics page to place an order.**

**Containerize It** - Many people have their own containers, such as coffee cans and Tupperware products that they are comfortable using to hold food scraps. Similar to kitchen caddies, once the container is full, it can be taken and emptied into the organics cart.

**Freeze It** - Some people choose to freeze or refrigerate their food scraps in containers and paper bags and then empty as needed.



# Organics Recycling is Easy!

**EDCO's New Organics Recycling Program will Collect Food Scraps and Yard Waste Mixed Together in Your Green Cart**



## STEP 1

Place food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings in your green organics cart. **If it grows, it goes!** See pages 1 - 2 for a list of accepted materials.



## STEP 2

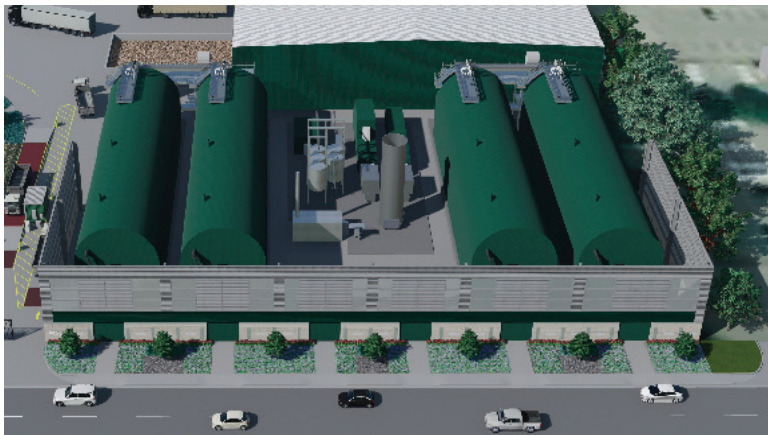
Set out your green cart by 6:00 a.m. on your regular collection day.



## STEP 3

Make sure everything fits in the green cart with the lid closed, and keep the lid closed at all times.

# From Green Cart to Anaerobic Digestion



*EDCO's Anaerobic Digestion Facility*

With mandatory recycling deadlines on the horizon, the EDCO Anaerobic Digestion Facility will allow the City of Imperial Beach to meet compliance mandates, including AB 1826, AB 1594, and SB 1383, which are directly related to organic recycling in the State of California.

Anaerobic digestion (AD) is the natural process in which microorganisms break down organic materials such as food waste, green waste, kitchen-generated fats, oils and greases. AD happens in closed spaces where there is no oxygen.

Biogas is generated during anaerobic digestion. Biogas is mostly methane gas, which is captured, filtered, and upgraded into 100% Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) that can be used to fuel vehicles or be directly injected into gas lines for community usage, both a renewable carbon-negative fuel source. The material that is left after anaerobic digestion happens is called "digestate." Digestate is a wet mixture that is usually separated into a solid and a liquid. Digestate is rich in nutrients and can be used as fertilizer for crops.



# Filling Your Organics Cart



Instead of placing food scraps and food-soiled paper in your trash cart, now place them in your green organics cart. Place yard trimmings and food waste directly in the organics cart.

**Always keep glass and plastic out!**

**Here are some suggestions to help reduce odors, moisture and pests in your green organics cart:**

- Place yard trimmings and food-soiled paper at the bottom of your cart to absorb moisture.
- Layer your food scraps with yard trimmings inside the cart.
- **Do not use plastic bags of any kind, please**, as they cannot break down in the anaerobic digester. Paper bags are okay.
- No yard trimmings this week? No worries! Just add food scraps directly into your green organics cart. If food scraps are wet, use a paper bag or newspaper at the bottom of your cart to absorb moisture before putting in the wet scraps.
- Keep your food scraps frozen and place them directly in your cart the night before your collection day.

## KEEPING YOUR ORGANICS CART CLEAN

- Rinse your cart with mild soap and water when necessary.
- **Tip:** Be sure to pour the dirty water onto the lawn and never down a storm drain!
- Sprinkle baking soda in your cart.
- Keep the cart lid closed at all times.
- Set out your cart every week.
- Keep your cart in a shaded area.
- Line the cart with leaves or food-soiled paper.

# What to do on Collection Day

Other than what now goes into your new organics cart, there are **no changes to collection guidelines or your collection day**. Please review the set-out guidelines and set out carts by 6:00 a.m. on your scheduled day of service or the night before.

## SET-OUT AND COLLECTION GUIDELINES

- Set out carts at street level with the wheels against the curb, if applicable, and out of the way of traffic.
- Please be careful not to place carts in areas of traffic, such as bike lanes, to avoid blocking paths of travel.
- Cart lids should be completely closed and arrows on the lid of carts should point toward the street or alley.
- Keep a minimum of two (2) feet distance between your carts, and three (3) feet from obstructions such as parked cars, mailboxes, trees and telephone poles.
- Please do not overload your carts. Do not overfill the automated carts to prevent the cart lids from properly closing.



## Important Information Inside About Our New Organics Collection!

 *On the Road to Zero Waste*

**The materials in your green cart do not go to a landfill!  
They are recycled into a natural resource!**

**100% Environmentally  
Sustainable and Renewable**

