

Residential Organics Recycling

Residents are encouraged to dispose of their organic waste in green lid carts (“organic carts”).



Green lid carts are for organic waste

What is considered organic waste?

The following waste can be placed in organic carts:

- **Food** (e.g., breads, coffee grounds, dairy, eggs/eggshells, fats, fish, fruits (pits too!), grease, meat (including bones), nuts/nutshells, oils, shellfish/shells, and vegetables)
- **Food soiled paper** (e.g., paper coffee filters, napkins, plates, tea bags, and towels, as well as pizza boxes (bottoms only; tops should be recycled!) and wooden chopsticks)
- **Greenery** (e.g., flowers, grass, houseplants, leaves, prunings, weeds, and wood chips)
- **Pet food** (e.g., birdseed, cat food, and dog food)

Cardboard, glass, metal (aluminum/tin), and plastic should be placed in regular recycling containers. Polystyrene should be placed in trash containers.

If an organic cart is full or unavailable for any reason, waste may be placed in a nearby trash container.

Can organic waste be bagged before being placed in an organic cart?

Organic waste may be bagged in compostable or paper bags, or wrapped in newspapers, before being placed in an organic cart. Consider asking for paper bags when shopping for groceries; after groceries are unpacked, those same bags can be used to collect and dispose of organic waste.

Organic waste may also be placed directly in organic carts.

Why is residential organics recycling required? What are the benefits?

In 2016, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill 1383, which aims to reduce methane, hydrofluorocarbon gas, and anthropogenic black carbon emissions in a statewide effort to combat climate change and improve public health. Senate Bill 1383 mandates residential organics recycling.

Organic waste in landfills emits 20% of California’s methane, a climate super pollutant 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide, as well as air pollutants like PM_{2.5}, which contributes to asthma and other health conditions¹. By lessening the amount of new organic waste disposed of in landfills, residential organics recycling will reduce the impacts of harmful emissions.

What happens to organic waste once collected?

Organic waste collected in Laguna Woods is transported to an anaerobic digestion facility where it is converted to renewable natural gas and/or organic compost.

¹ State of California. California’s Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy, 23 Nov. 2021, <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp>.



For assistance locating your nearest organic cart, please contact your property manager or CR&R Incorporated at (949) 625-6735. www.cityoflagunawoods.org/RESorganics

ORGANICS

R E C Y C L I N G

Bag waste in compostable or paper bags, wrap in newspaper, or place directly in organic carts

YES

FOOD

Bones
Breads
Coffee Grounds
Dairy
Eggs/Eggshells
Fats
Fish
Fruits
(pits too!)
Grease
Meat
Nuts/Nutshells
Oils
Shellfish/Shells
Vegetables

PET FOOD

Birdseed
Cat Food
Dog Food

YES

FOOD SOILED PAPER

Coffee Filters
Napkins
Plates
Tea Bags
Towels
Pizza Boxes
(bottoms only; tops should be recycled!)
Wooden Chopsticks

GREENERY

Flowers
Grass
Houseplants
Leaves
Prunings
Weeds
Wood Chips



KEEP
LIDS
CLOSED!

NO

NO
CARDBOARD

NO
GLASS

NO METAL
(ALUMINUM/TIN)

NO
PET WASTE

NO
PLASTIC

NO
POLYSTYRENE

NO