



# EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado



## WHERE IS **AWAY** WHEN WE THROW IT AWAY?

### WHERE DOES YOUR TRASH GO AFTER YOU THROW IT AWAY?

Turns out, away isn't actually very far. Most of our waste stays in San Diego, impacting our local communities and environment.

Coronado residents and businesses pay city-contracted EDCO to collect 39,000 tons of waste every year. On average, Coronado generates 9.5 pounds of waste per person per day (higher than the San Diego average of 6.8 pounds per day) that EDCO then trucks to different locations around San Diego County.

### GRAY BINS

Trash from gray bins is dumped at one of three local landfills — Miramar, Sycamore (Santee), or Otay — at a cost of about \$40 per ton. Landfill dumps can reach 500 feet high with trash that can take up to 1,000 years to break down.

With current landfill capacity and the continued rate of trash accumulation, the Miramar and Otay landfills are expected to fill around 2030.

### BLUE BINS

Co-mingled recycling from blue bins is transported to EDCO's material recovery facility in Lemon Grove for sorting and processing. Paper, metal, and plastics #1, #2, #5, #6 and #7 are bundled and sold to brokers that resell the recycling across the U.S. and overseas. Approximately 20% of items placed in blue bins are not



recyclable. Sadly, other recyclables are contaminated with food and liquid and are redirected to landfill.

### GREEN BINS

Green bins collect food, food-soiled paper, and plant clippings for composting at EDCO's high-tech anaerobic digestion facility in Escondido. Over several weeks, the organic material breaks down under high heat and bacteria without oxygen to produce fertilizer and methane, which is processed into renewable natural gas to fuel EDCO trucks.

### WASTE GOALS

California requires cities to divert a minimum of 75% of waste from landfills by recycling and composting. The cities of San Diego, Del Mar, Solana Beach, and Chula Vista set a more ambitious goal to divert 100% of trash from landfill by 2040.

Coronado has yet to set a waste diversion goal even though our waste production far exceeds national and local averages, costs for trash dumping are increasing, and landfills are nearing capacity. Coronado needs to address our continued waste production as there is no "away" when we throw it away.

Minimize your trash, recycle right, and compost organics to keep Coronado Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.

*Data provided by CalRecycle and EDCO.*

### HOW MUCH ARE WE THROWING AWAY?

Average pounds per person per day:

- Imperial Beach: **3.3**
- Solana Beach: **4.6**
- National City: **5.1**
- Coronado: **9.5**
- Del Mar: **13.8**

For more information visit [EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG](http://EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG)