



# EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

## RECYCLING ORGANIC WASTE

### New law aims to reduce food waste, lower greenhouse gas emissions

**R**ecycling helps conserve resources and extends the life of landfills. It also helps create a healthier environment for our community and future generations. Every Coronado household should have a brown cart for trash, a blue cart for recyclables, and a green cart for both yard and food waste. The food waste component, which was implemented last year, has been mandatory as of Jan. 1.

Here's what you need to know.

Forty percent all food in America is thrown out, making food waste is the country's No. 1 landfill item. Adding food waste to EDCO's Organics Recycling Program will reduce the amount of organic waste (food scraps and yard waste) going into landfills, which will lower greenhouse gas emissions released into the environment.

EDCO's Anaerobic Digestion Facility breaks down and converts organic waste into fertilizer/mulch and captures renewable natural gas to fuel EDCO's trucks.

#### WHAT GOES IN YOUR GREEN BIN?

**Food scraps** to include 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, and spoiled food. In short: almost anything edible.

**Food-soiled cardboard and paper** to include paper bags, paper napkins, paper towels, paper plates, paper cups, paper and cardboard take-out containers such as pizza boxes (with no plastic or wax coating, and with any metal removed), coffee filters, and tissues. Again, emphasis on



"food soiled" cardboard and paper that cannot go in the Blue Cart. Think pizza box.

**Landscape waste** to include grass clippings, small branches, small tree limbs, tree roots, flowers, leaves, plants, and straw.

#### DO'S AND DON'TS

**Do not** use any kind of plastic bags (including certified compostable or biodegradable bags) for collecting or disposing of any type of green waste, food waste or other organics collection or disposal.

**Do** place all organic material loosely inside the green container for collection. Paper bags are acceptable. Also, do not put rocks in with organic waste or in the Green Cart.

**Do not** place hazardous waste in any of EDCO's collection containers.

To learn more about hazardous waste, special waste items, and disposal solutions go to the Resource Center tab at [edcodisposal.com](http://edcodisposal.com).

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Start your own compost.** It is an easy way for households to environmentally deal with organic waste. The Coronado Public Library and Emerald Keepers will be hosting composting workshops later this spring. Check [emeraldkeepers.org/new-events](http://emeraldkeepers.org/new-events) regularly for a schedule.

**If you don't have a Green Cart,** contact EDCO: (619) 287-7555. EDCO is working to distribute Green Bins to every address in Coronado. EDCO says, "We'll take care of it."

**If you need a small under-counter compost bin** for your kitchen, call EDCO.

They will deliver one for free. Several shops around town also sell cute bins that can sit on your counter.

**Shop lightly.** Buy fewer groceries. Only purchase enough for a few days at a time.

**Designate one day a week as Use-It-Up-Day** and use up leftovers in your refrigerator.

#### PRO-TIPS

1) Line your kitchen bin with a couple of sheets of newspaper, used paper towels or a small paper bag. Then dump the contents into your Green Cart on trash day.

2) To eliminate unpleasant odors, meat scraps can be frozen until trash day, or depending on the scraps, can be added to your dog's meal. Check with your veterinarian.

*Many thanks to EDCO for sharing this organic waste information.*

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**THURSDAY, JAN. 20**

**POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH:**

Studying and Protecting the Coastal Ocean by Surfing with Smartfin, Nick Rowlett, UCSD Project Lead, citizen scientist. Coronado Public Library Winn Room.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 2:** Emerald Keepers General Meeting with speaker Robert Carr, San Diego Building Electrification Coalition 7pm. Zoom link on [emeraldkeepers.org](http://emeraldkeepers.org) under Events.

**THURSDAY, FEB 10:** Delta Beach Clean-Up in partnership with the

Navy. Meet at the Fiddler's Cove parking lot or at the gate just south of Naval Amphibious Base Coronado.

Look for the Emerald Keepers banner on the fence. Bring your own water and a pick-up stick, if you have one. Please wear a mask.



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