LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENTAL RECYCLING PROGRAM Newsletter



Purchasing Green Products

When making a purchase, adhere to the County's policies and initiatives to purchase environmentally preferable goods and services. Talk to your Recycling Coordinator to ensure products purchased comply with County policies. For products and services with no mandated requirements, exercise due diligence by using environmentally preferable products when cost-effective and practicable for work completed on behalf of Los Angeles County.

On the County Recycling Program website, users can find the mandated requirements for paper products and foodware products. The page also provides information on County vendors who can provide environmentally preferable print cartridges and office products, as well as the County's Policy on Green Purchasing.



The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) emphasizes that, to reduce the quantity and toxicity of waste, public entities must consider environmentally preferable factors of products purchased, such as:

- Repairability
- Durability
- Recycled content
- Recyclability

For more information on County policies or mandated requirements for County goods and services, contact your Department Procurement Manager or the County Recycling Coordinator.

Reduce & Reuse



Instead of throwing items away or recycling, why not repurpose them? Whether it's textiles, furniture, or other household items, reusing products can help us save money and reduce waste. It can also help us become more mindful about the environmental impacts of the products we purchase. Before recycling, get creative in reusing or repurposing items.

For a used filing cabinet, the drawers can be removed, and updates such as adding drain holes to the back and applying a new coat of paint can refresh and repurpose it as a planter box.

Taking the time to learn how to sew, whether through a class or a YouTube video, can save money and time by allowing you to mend your own clothes or even update the style.



If your desk has a lot of dings or scratches, prep and paint it a new color. Replacing or painting knobs or handles can also update its look. This can also be done with chairs and tables.

A used piece of wood or wood pallet can also be repurposed into a wall garden. Simply place it against a wall, staple pocket planters to it, and add plants. Used paint cans can also be cleaned out and repurposed into planters or storage for household knickknacks.



Carryout Bag Requirements

A change in California's carryout bag requirements took effect January 1, 2026, under Senate Bill (SB) 1053 (2024). The new law aims to further reduce plastic waste by allowing stores to provide single-use carryout bags made only of recycled-content paper. Previously, stores could offer plastic carryout bags if they met durability requirements. As a result, at-store plastic bag recycling and reusable bag certification requirements were also removed.

SB 1053 replaces SB 270 (2014) and applies to the same types of stores. The law continues to require single-use paper carryout bags to meet certain requirements, including being made of 40% postconsumer recycled content, accepted for recycling in curbside recycling programs, displaying the name of the manufacturer, the country where the bag was manufactured, and the percentage of postconsumer content on the bag, and costing customers a minimum of ten cents ($0.10) per bag. SB 1053 specifies carryout bags as those offered at checkout counters, self-checkout kiosks, for in-store pickup, curbside delivery, and home delivery. Additionally, beginning January 1, 2028, SB 1053 will require single-use carryout bags to have a minimum of 50% postconsumer recycled content.



SB 1046 (2022), which took effect on January 1, 2025, requires retailers to only distribute pre-checkout bags that are compostable or made of recycled-content paper. Cities, counties, and the Office of the Attorney General have the authority to enforce the statutory requirements for carryout bags and pre-checkout bags. A person can report violations to the California Attorney General's Office using its online reporting form, or to the local District Attorney, City Attorney, or City Prosecutor's office where the violation occurred.

Winter Harvests

Growing herbs and vegetables becomes easier and more sustainable when you use onsite composting. Even in cold weather, gardens of any size can successfully use compost piles or bins by adding insulating materials, such as straw bales, leaves, or cardboard. When temperatures drop, compost piles or bins can be kept active by moving them to a sunny spot, monitoring the moisture levels, and turning the mixture less frequently.

