



# TRASH FLASH

WINTER 2025



RECYCLING NEWS FOR OJAI RESIDENTS

## Happy Holidays to All

As we approach the holiday season, we're looking back at another successful year of environmental progress and looking forward with enthusiasm as we continue our efforts to remain at the forefront of California's recycling movement. As we complete our 93rd year in business, we take pride in being part of a community that takes environmental stewardship so seriously.

We know that you, our customers, are just as committed as we are to halting the destructive effects of climate change through organic and food waste recycling. You have adapted to the demands of recycling and waste disposal, and we thank you for working with us to improve our community and planet. We've worked hard to make these important changes easier on you and you have responded. Together we are making a difference!

It's also a great time to thank our partners. This year marked the 35th anniversary of our partnerships with Gold Coast Recycling and Agromin. Working together, we've become leaders in recycling, helping businesses and communities meet and exceed recycling mandates while serving the needs of customers like you. We're so proud of all we've accomplished and will continue to accomplish in the future!

This year also marks a huge leap forward in local food waste recycling. Agromin's Mountain View Food Waste Processing Facility in Oxnard opened in October. The facility is capable of handling 300 tons of food waste a day, keeping the food waste out of landfills and turning it into eco-friendly products. In addition, it brings much-needed efficiencies to local food waste recycling. (Read more about the facility in the story to the right.)

We also owe great thanks this holiday season to our dedicated employees, who work hard every day to provide our essential services. We are proud to be a longtime, local, family-focused company where many employees spend their entire careers. And we give special thanks and holiday wishes to our first responders, medical professionals, military personnel and other essential workers, for continuing to keep us safe.

Finally, as you contemplate New Year's resolutions, take a moment to consider something we think about every day: what we can do to protect the planet. If you haven't started recycling your food waste yet, that would be an ideal resolution for the new year!

From our family and employees, we wish you all a very happy holiday season and a wonderful new year!

*Jim & Myron Harrison*



## A Leap Forward In Local Food Waste Recycling

Even before food waste recycling became law under Senate Bill 1383, E.J. Harrison & Sons was focusing on the future with a pilot recycling program for commercial customers. From there, our food waste recycling programs have evolved with the help of our partners at Agromin and Gold Coast Recycling. More and more of you have successfully joined our efforts to keep food waste out of landfills.

And now, we've taken another huge leap forward. Local recycling capabilities recently expanded dramatically thanks to the long-awaited opening of our partner Agromin's Mountain View Food Waste Processing Facility in Oxnard.

The plant, which brings much-needed efficiencies to local food waste recycling, is currently capable of handling 300 tons of food waste a day, keeping the food waste out of landfills and turning it into eco-friendly products.

Agromin spent several years and \$15 million working with us and local officials to launch the new facility. It's the latest and largest step forward in the efforts of Harrison Industries and our partners to keep us at the forefront of recycling technology and environmental stewardship.

"We started the process in 2017. We leased the property and started the permitting process, and finally, here we are eight years later," said Agromin CEO Bill Camarillo.

Previously, commercial food waste was taken

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## Help Our Planet by Recycling Your Holiday Food Waste

Your holiday gift-giving list likely includes family members, friends, co-workers and maybe even your local mail carrier, dog-walker, gardener or other service provider. But if you feel like you've forgotten one recipient, maybe try this one: our planet.

That's right, Mother Earth is a deserving addition to your gift list. By recycling all of the food waste created in your kitchen, you help rescue the planet from the harmful effects of climate change. This is especially important around the holidays.

Statistics show Americans throw away at least 25% more trash between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. And with large family meals, parties and other holiday celebrations, food waste is a big part of that increase.

If it's not recycled, that extra food waste ends up in landfills, where it creates destructive methane gas, which in turn contributes to many of the natural disasters we all read about. Methane is a nasty climate change catalyst, a so-called "super pollutant" that is 84% more potent than carbon dioxide when it comes to global warming. Recycling your food waste is a great gift that helps protect the planet. And it's a gift that keeps on giving as your food waste is turned into green products that help create beautiful gardens of fresh vegetables and beautiful flowers.

So if you haven't started food waste recycling, or maybe you just do it once in a while, now is a great opportunity to get in the holiday spirit with your gift to Mother Earth. All you need to do is put bagged food waste in your yard/organics cart and take it out weekly, even if you don't have any yard waste. To learn more, visit [ejharrison.com/foodwaste](http://ejharrison.com/foodwaste).

## Double Trash Weeks Ahead

This year, we will again pick up twice the usual amount of residential customers' trash, at no extra cost, during the two weeks after Christmas. On your pickup days between Friday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 12, you can place bags of extra trash alongside your waste cart at the curb.

Please make sure to put the extra trash in bags. You can also put out extra recyclables next to your blue cart, but please be sure to flatten all boxes.

## Recycle Your Christmas Tree

After providing some Christmas spirit during holiday celebrations, your Christmas tree can keep on giving after you've removed it.

We're again providing Christmas tree recycling for our residential customers this year, and we encourage you to participate in this important effort.

Recycling your tree truly is a holiday gift to Mother Earth. Instead of giving off climate-damaging methane gas in a landfill, your tree is processed into mulch by our partner Agromin, which benefits our farmlands, orchards, nurseries and home gardens.

During the two weeks after Christmas – from Dec. 26 through Jan. 12 – simply remove everything, including ornaments, tinsel and other items you put on the tree. Then cut the tree into 4-foot sections and put them in your organics/yard waste cart. (This is the preferred method, which we highly encourage.)

Otherwise, place the whole Christmas tree at the curb on collection day. (Flocked trees are accepted.)

We appreciate your help, and thanks also to Agromin and our local municipalities for participating in this program.



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## A Leap Forward

Continued from page 1

to the Simi Valley landfill, where it was manually processed, decontaminated, mixed with mulch made from green waste, and sent to Kern County for composting. Residential food waste was taken to our partners at Gold Coast Recycling for separation.

All commercial and residential food waste Harrison collects will now end up at the Mountain View facility.

Bill Camarillo explained the new automated process. "There's a lot of food waste generated in the commercial sector, so all of that material today is being collected and it has contamination like plastic bags, knives, forks, spoons, glass bottles, things that are all nonfood material. Once the food waste is loaded into the hoppers, it never touches the ground again and it has no personnel manually processing it like we were doing. This machine shreds the material, presses it like a big press to squeeze the food out of the material, and then runs that food over really fine screens with water to remove any final pieces of glass, metal or plastic. We end up with this baby food-like material that's completely clean that we can make four different things out of such as renewable natural gas, organic fertilizers, animal feed and compost."

Composting and dehydrating happens elsewhere, but Agromin is working on producing organic fertilizer on the premises.

Agromin is also in the process of expanding its Limoneira Ranch green waste composting facility in Santa Paula. The Limoneira expansion is expected to be completed in 2026.

"Once Limoneira's expansion is open, it will be able to accept all the food waste for composting. It will be a commercial site whereas now it's an agricultural site," Camarillo said.



## A Green Holiday is a Happy Holiday

The holidays are upon us once more and there's always lots to think about. But something else to keep in mind is reducing holiday waste. Elsewhere in this newsletter we discussed the importance of recycling food waste that comes along with holiday meals, celebrations and family gatherings. But there are other things you can do to keep your holidays green.

It's no surprise that Americans throw away at least 25 percent more trash than usual from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, according to some estimates. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a list of steps you can take to help decrease that waste.

🌲 Think green before you shop holiday sales. Bring your own reusable cloth bag for carrying your purchases, and try to buy items with minimal packaging and/or made with recycled content.

🍷 If you host a party, set the table with cloth napkins and reusable dishes, glasses, and silverware. Also save and reuse party hats, decorations, and favors.

🌿 Be sure your guests know where to properly dispose of and recycle their wastes at your party. And make sure you have an area for food waste. You can also put leftovers in recyclable containers and share them with family, friends, or others. Donate untouched leftovers from parties to a local food bank or homeless shelter.

📦 Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper. Also remember to save or recycle your used wrapping paper. Give gifts that don't require much packaging, such as concert tickets or gift certificates.

🍪 Give homemade cookies or other goodies as gifts, using reusable containers.

For more waste-saving ideas, visit [epa.gov/recycle/reducing-waste-what-you-can-do](http://epa.gov/recycle/reducing-waste-what-you-can-do).

## Sort Your Waste and Recyclables Correctly!

When disposing of trash, do the right thing and sort it correctly! Placing recyclables in the trash (or vice versa) slows sorting and reduces recycling efficiency. Keeping waste in the right cart ensures more materials get recycled.

**Why it matters: Doing your part helps save the environment:**

- ◆ Recyclables in the wrong cart can end up in landfills instead of being reused.
- ◆ Organic waste (food and yard waste) belongs in the organics cart. If sent to a landfill, it decomposes and releases methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

**Follow these simple guidelines:**

- ◆ Recyclables go in the **blue** cart.
- ◆ Yard waste and bagged food waste go in the **green** organics cart (or **tan**, until a new green cart is delivered).
- ◆ All other trash goes in the **black** cart (or **green**, until a new black cart is delivered).

For a complete list of what goes where, visit [ejharrison.com/recycling-guidelines](http://ejharrison.com/recycling-guidelines).

## 2025-26 Holiday Schedule

Because the upcoming Christmas Day and New Year's Day holidays fall on a Thursday, there will be **NO** delay in your usual Monday trash collection.

These **2026 holidays** will delay your usual Monday trash collection by one day:

Memorial Day	Monday, May 25
Labor Day	Monday, Sept. 7

These **2026 holidays** will **NOT** delay trash collection:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, Jan. 19
Presidents Day	Monday, Feb. 16
Juneteenth	Friday, June 19
Independence Day	Saturday, July 4
Indigenous Peoples Day	Monday, Oct. 12
Veterans Day	Wednesday, Nov. 11
Thanksgiving	Thursday, Nov. 26
Christmas	Friday, Dec. 25

## PAY BILLS ONLINE



**PAY YOUR BILLS ONLINE WITH A CREDIT CARD OR E-CHECK. IT'S EASY. GO TO [WWW.EJHARRISON.COM](http://WWW.EJHARRISON.COM) AND CHECK OUT YOUR PAYMENT OPTIONS.**

# GUIDELINES

## Recycling

Keep it clean and loose! Clean = NO contamination  
Loose = DO NOT put in plastic bags, except shredded paper



### YES

Containers empty/not rinsed.



Newspapers or Magazines



Plastics 1-7



Glass Containers



Cardboard  
Food, Shoe  
Boxes, etc.



Paper/Junk  
Mail



Aluminum  
or Metal



Flattened  
Cardboard



Cartons



Bagged  
Shredded  
Paper



### NO



NO Plastic  
Bags



NO Hoses



NO Styrofoam  
or Straws



NO Medical  
Needles or Sharps



NO Food-  
soiled Paper



NO Film  
Plastic or  
Shrink Wrap



NO Diapers

## Trash



### YES



Pet Waste



Diapers



Plastic Bags



Old Clothing  
or Rags



Wrappers



Styrofoam



Old Shoes



Hoses



### NO



NO Batteries



NO Fluorescent  
Tubes or Light  
Bulbs



NO Paint



NO Electronics  
or Appliances



NO Hazardous  
Waste



NO Medical  
Needles or Sharps



NO Tires



NO Motor Oil  
or Cooking Oil

For information on how to dispose of items not accepted in the trash, please call the County of Ventura Hotline at 805-658-4323.

Connect with us! @ejharrisoninc



### CITY OF OJAI

**CITY MANAGER:** BEN HARVEY  
**MAYOR AT LARGE:** ANDY GILMAN  
**MAYOR PRO TEM:**  
RACHEL LANG

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**  
KIM MANG,  
LESLIE RULE &  
ANDREW WHITMAN

## Organics

Yard waste is loose in cart.



### YES



Scrap Lumber  
- NO Treated  
Wood Waste  
(TWW)



Plants



Flowers



Small  
Branches



Leaves



Manure



Yard Trimmings



Grass



Food waste is bagged and sealed securely in cart.



Fruits &  
Vegetables



Pasta, Rice  
Bread & Grains



Eggs & Dairy



Leftovers



Coffee  
Grounds



Meat, Poultry,  
Seafood  
(Bones & Shells)



### NO



NO Plastic



NO Dirt or Rocks



NO Flower Pots



NO Pet Waste



NO Styrofoam



NO Diapers



NO Treated Wood  
Waste (TWW)



NO Film  
Plastic or  
Shrink Wrap



NO Glass  
or Metal



NO Trash



NO Twist Ties,  
Produce Stickers  
or Rubber Bands



NO Hoses



NO Oil or  
Grease



Call 1-800-CLEANUP for more certified used oil recycling locations. Funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

**EXTRA TRASH?** Rent a roll-off or 3-yard

bin. For information and rates, call

805-647-1414 or

1-800-41-TRASH

[www.ejharrison.com](http://www.ejharrison.com)



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