



Single Stream Recycling Alert:

Plastic Bag and Plastic Film Ban at PG County MRF (Materials Recycling Facility)

The County has been informed that plastic bags and plastic film can no longer be recycled with the other single stream recyclables currently collected at the six Convenience Centers. Plastic bags (*ie. grocery, tall kitchen, and heavy duty bags*) create operational problems, safety concerns, and hazards to the processor's equipment specifically the conveyor belts used in sorting single stream recyclables, as seen in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIYLnHQ9peM>. Loads with plastic bags/plastic film will be considered "contaminated" and rejected, causing additional fees for the County and zero credit toward our recycling efforts. Until technology catches up with a solution to address this issue, plastic bags and plastic film are banned from our convenience center single stream collection.

Effective immediately, if you use plastic bags at home to collect your recyclables, please do not throw the entire bag into the recycling container rather, dump the recyclables out of the bag and dispose of the bag into a collection container located near the recycling containers at the Convenience Centers. Our attendants are available on-site for any assistance you may need. Please recycle your plastic bags at other local vendors (grocery, chain, department stores) or consider reusing them as demonstrated at <http://www.wikihow.com/Recycle-Old-Plastic-Bags>.

The County is researching user-friendly alternatives for the separate collection of plastic bags, evaluating TREX as a recycling possibility, and exploring the feasibility of using other recycling processors. We appreciate the majority of citizens who realize the environmental and cost benefits of recycling and trust you will continue your recycling efforts.

The good news is that the County's recycling rate for 2015 is **39.88%** (well above the State mandated 20%) and the County's overall waste diversion rate is just over **59%**. Keep up the good work and keep on recycling!!