

Read the article about the zero waste policy in San Francisco. Complete it with the missing sentences. There is one sentence you do not need to use.

- A Then there is the question of penalties.
- B When recycling was first introduced, it was discovered that the largest remaining kind of trash was leftover food.
- C All kinds of trash can be found in these places from broken toys to unwanted CDs, and a lot of items that could have been recycled.
- D One of the few things that people are warned against putting here are plastic bags, which are not biodegradable at all.
- E He wants the city to achieve 100% zero waste.
- F The most commonly recycled items are glass bottles.

Each year, Americans throw away about 250 million tons of garbage. That's roughly two kilos per person per day, most of which ends up in a landfill site. 1_____ As well as being an eyesore, landfills create environmental damage and emit harmful greenhouse gases, which have been shown to contribute to climate change. These concerns have prompted San Francisco and a handful of other cities to aim for a once-unthinkable goal: zero waste.

In 2009, San Francisco became the first city in the country to require that residents and businesses alike separate from their trash biodegradable items, like food scraps, and recyclable goods, like paper, metals, and plastic, into separate bins. And that has led to a big reduction in the amount of garbage headed to the landfill. The city's new laws have helped to keep 80% of its waste away from landfills, when the national average is 35%. However, the city mayor, Ed Lee, wants to go even further. 2_____

San Francisco's 80-year-old private garbage company has recently invented a new name for itself: Recology.

3_____ This can be used to make a substance called compost, which can be added to soil to help plants grow. So, Recology set about building a new composting facility on an enormous complex to the northeast of San Francisco. Here they turn all of the city's organic waste into rich compost that is used by some of the nation's best vineyards. In the rest of the country, where composting is a rarity, 97% of food waste is disposed of in landfills.

Surprisingly, it isn't only food that residents are told to put into their compost bins; they are encouraged to put in all sorts of other garbage as well. This includes packaging where meat has been sold, food wrappings, paper napkins, tissues, used paper plates, and even milk cartons. In the right conditions, paper will biodegrade in two to four weeks. Compost bins provide these conditions because they are warm and moist. 4_____ However, Ed Lee has found a solution to this problem, too: he has banned them from the city.

Not all San Franciscans are enthusiastic about Ed Lee's recycling policy because they say it is costing them more. Since last year, residents have had to pay for their recycling and compost bins, as well as their trash bins. 5_____ Those who refuse to sort their garbage can face fines ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. Teams of workers from the city go round knocking on doors of residents who, without realizing it, have had their garbage cans inspected by auditors early in the morning. The idea is to educate people on composting and recycling and answer any questions they may have. So far, no fines have been imposed and only warnings have been given out. And city officials say that the more people know about zero waste, the keener they are to support the policy.