

On The Road to Zero Waste

2023 Sustainability Report



EDCO

edcodisposal.com

"We'll Take Care of It"

Family owned and operated EDCO has been on the *Road to Zero Waste* since its founding in 1967. With a focus on diversion, EDCO has developed an extensive network of recycling processing facilities that are collectively designed to maximize recovery efforts and create sustainable solutions for our environment.

“We’ll Take Care of It” is the foundation that EDCO approaches customers, communities, fellow employees and the environment. EDCO has long been recognized as an industry leader who is committed to enhance the quality of life for the communities we serve as well as our employees.

EDCO has embraced its unique role as an independent, premier service provider that is firmly committed to innovation that reduces the impact on the environment. EDCO believes it is our responsibility to leave a sustainable planet to future generations.



EDCO's Extensive Network of Processing Facilities

EDCO is a leader in developing innovative options to solid waste collection, transfer, processing and disposal challenges. Through the application of advanced technologies, EDCO has been a trend-setter in all facets of solid waste handling, from residential, commercial and industrial solid waste collection, to materials processing and recycling, to transfer and now Anaerobic Digesters to harness additional renewable energy.

Since EDCO opened its first mechanized recycling processing facility in 1989, EDCO has embraced **Zero Waste** as the goal and is committed to continually reinvest in this path.



3 Recycling Processing Facilities	2 Mixed CDI Processing Facilities	1 Anaerobic Digestion Facility	1 Chip and Grind Facility
6 Transfer Stations	6 State Certified Recycling Buyback Centers	4 Public RNG Stations and 7 Time Fill Stations	6 HHW Facility Partnerships

Material Recovery Facilities (MRF's)

With a focus on recycling, EDCO has heavily invested in processing facilities, operating three Material Recovery Facilities in Southern California. These facilities feature the newest and most advanced technology available to effectively separate the materials for shipment to end use markets.

The largest facility is 70,000-square feet and can process 100,000 pounds of commingled recycling per hour using a series of screens, magnets, high-speed optic scanners, conveyors and EDCO personnel to separate mixed loads of recyclable material.

These state-of-the-art facilities allow EDCO to process mixed recycling with minimal contamination. EDCO's Material Recovery Facilities are expected to divert over **400,000 tons** of material from landfills each year. Assisting jurisdictions throughout Southern California in achieving **Zero Waste** goals.

[Click here](#) to watch EDCO's Material Recovery Facilities Video!



Mixed Construction Demolition & Inert (CDI) Processing Facility

EDCO is a leader in CDI recycling, operating two facilities in Southern California. The largest facility is permitted to process up to 1000 tons of Construction and Demolition (C&D) material per day and uses state-of-the-art technology to increase the efficiency and the overall diversion quality. Combined these facilities processed over **164,117 tons** of C&D material in 2023.

Many of these materials can be reused, recycled, and processed into new products thus prolonging our supply of natural resources and saving valuable landfill space.

The EDCO CDI facilities exceed the CALGreen Diversion requirements. C&D processing is another effort to assist local jurisdictions in diverting more waste from landfills and achieving **Zero Waste** goals.

Click [here](#) to watch EDCO's C&D Processing Facility Video!



Anaerobic Digestion Facility (AD)

EDCO's commitment to innovation has continued with the development of an organic infrastructure designed to meet and exceed the ambitious goals of SB 1383 and achieve a 75% methane reduction by 2025.

EDCO completed the permitting of the only two Anaerobic Digestion facilities in San Diego County, with one currently operational. The EDCO AD Facility provides a sustainable end-market for Southern California's organic waste while at the same time producing organic fertilizer and the cleanest fuel available in California - Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), which is used to power the EDCO fleet.

EDCO's state-of-the-art Anaerobic Digestion Facility assists jurisdictions to be in full compliance with State Mandates and keeps us ***On the Road to Zero Waste***.

Click [here](#) to watch EDCO's AD Facility Video!



Ramona Organics Facility

In addition to operating an AD Facility, EDCO also operates Ramona Organics. This facility uses machinery to mechanically reduce the size of organic materials like wood waste and green waste by chipping and grinding the material, essentially turning large pieces into smaller, more manageable particles often used as mulch or feedstock for composting operations.

Mulching is one of the simplest and most beneficial practices used in landscaping. Mulch is simply a protective layer of a material that is spread on top of the soil. Mulch helps conserve and extend available water, protects the soil from erosion, reduces competition by suppressing weeds and moderating temperature extremes.

The EDCO Ramona Organics Facility provides another outlet for green waste material, keeping us ***On the Road to Zero Waste.***



Public Disposal Sites & Transfer Stations

EDCO's public disposal sites and transfer stations play a major role in reducing the overall environmental impact of waste collection and disposal through proper management of the materials.

Instead of multiple trucks going to remote locations, these trucks go to our transfer stations. The waste is offloaded, sorted and combined into larger trucks to be sent to landfills and recycling centers, ultimately reducing the total number of vehicular trips to and from each site thereby reducing environmental impacts including energy use, transportation costs, road use and greenhouse gas emissions.



EDCO Station La Mesa	Escondido Resource Recovery	Fallbrook Resource Recovery
Ramona Transfer Station	EDCO Recovery & Transfer San Diego	EDCO Recycling & Transfer Signal Hill

Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Stations

As part of our commitment to the environment and a key part of the regional infrastructure needed to expand the use of NG Vehicles, EDCO operates 4 public RNG stations. In addition, EDCO operates 7 time-fill facilities that serve company vehicles. Time-fill allows a fleet to fill overnight during off-peak hours. Off-peak hours are times when the energy grid is not under a lot of stress and has excess electrical generation. If that energy is not used, it's actually wasted. Time-fill also increases efficiency of refueling and ensures that compressors only start and stop one time per day reducing maintenance and extending the life of equipment.

In 2023, EDCO distributed **over 7,324,083 million (DGE's)** diesel gallon equivalents, of natural gas.

Environmental Benefits:



7.32 million gallons of diesel fuel produces **163,912,978 pounds of CO₂**. Natural gas equivalent produces **near zero CO₂**



EDCO Solar Facilities

As part of our environmental initiative, we have four roof top solar facilities, each at a separate sites, that uses the solar system to offset the power of our natural gas compressor units, creating a more sustainable power and fuel source for collection operations. Solar power is the cleanest, most reliable form of renewable energy available today. Impactful benefits are derived from rooftop solar facilities by reducing the dependency on fossil fuels, contributing to cleaner air quality, land conservation, reduced carbon footprint and grid resilience.

In 2023, EDCO produced **317,660 kWh** of electricity. Equivalent to saving our environment in the following ways:

Greenhouse gas emissions from



567,560 miles driven by an average passenger vehicle

CO2 emissions from



14,650,036 smartphones charging

Carbon sequestered by



3,669 tree seedlings grown for 10 years



Together We Diverted Over 937,753 Tons from the Landfill in 2023

We saved over

1.04 million trees

by recycling 60,944 tons of paper



We recycled 3,451 tons of aluminum saving over

5.74

million gallons of oil



We recycled 22,246 tons of glass saving

1,668 tons of feldspar, **4,227** tons of limestone,

4,560 tons of soda ash, and **14,460** tons of sand



We saved over **676**

thousand cubic yards of landfill space
by recycling 75,190 tons of cardboard



We saved over

29.9 million Kwh of energy

by recycling 5,186 tons of PET



Organic Waste

In 2023, EDCO diverted **430,432 tons** of organics waste from the landfill. Disposing of organics material in the landfill releases large amounts of methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas, due to anaerobic decomposition. Methane is 72 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂) over a twenty-year horizon. Recycling or composting organic waste reduces greenhouse gas emissions and conserves landfill space.

Organic waste includes food waste, coffee grinds, tea bags, bones, green waste, and any food-soiled paper. Organic materials, contain nutrients that can be redistributed into your soil and your plants. Similar to aluminum and other recyclables, organic waste should be disposed of properly so that the valuable resources contained in them are not lost.



Landfilled
Organic Waste
Emits
Methane Gas -
A Super
Pollutant



EDCO's Near Zero (NZ) Emissions Collection Fleet

EDCO is an industry leader in reducing GHG emissions from its overall fleet, including collection trucks, over the road transfer units and light duty vehicles.

EDCO took delivery of the initial Near Zero emission collection vehicles placed in service in the State of California and took another step towards reducing its carbon footprint with the introduction of Near Zero (NZ) Natural Gas powered over-the-road, day cab tractors. These new tractor/trailer combos were among the first over-the-road NZ engines in the State of California, reflecting the recent release of the technologically advanced engine in this larger class.

Near Zero engines produce almost zero emission of Nitrous Oxide (NOx), which is the primary generator of air pollution. The NZ technology meets the State of California 2023 NOx and 2031 petroleum reduction goals. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) identifies that the **NZ engine emissions are equivalent to a 100% battery powered vehicle using electricity from a modern natural gas power plant.**



Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)

In 2017, EDCO converted its entire Natural Gas (NG) powered fleet to utilization of Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) as a fuel source. Previously, EDCO's NG fleet was powered using traditional Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), natural gas that is typically extracted miles beneath the surface.

RNG is an ultra-clean, ultra-low carbon natural gas alternative that is captured as organic matter decomposes in controlled environments. The methane gas is then processed, purified and distributed to EDCO's eleven natural gas fuel stations. While investing in CNG provides a significant emission reduction over traditional diesel and gasoline, RNG provides further reduction in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) effects over the use of extracted natural gas.

EDCO has both the largest alternative fuel fleet and supporting infrastructure in Southern California, an important factor in ensuring the health and welfare of a community is protected.



Sustainable Practices

Leading by example, EDCO has incorporated sustainable business practices throughout all company facilities. From adopting an environmental purchasing policy, to purchasing reusable glasses and dishware for employee use, to ensuring that employees have access to trash, recycling and organics containers in all breakrooms, EDCO is committed to incorporating sustainable solutions throughout all company locations.

In addition, all EDCO events are **Zero Waste**, thereby setting a precedent by establishing solutions that enact landfill diversion practices. Team members mindfully place containers throughout designated areas for the collection of recyclable materials and organics waste only, substantially minimizing landfill waste. Priority is aimed toward reuse first, followed by ensuring that event products are recyclable for placement into the blue recycling containers and acceptable for collection in the green organics containers.

Preventing and reducing the generation of landfill waste through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and anaerobic digestion increases diversion and illustrates our commitment to the vital importance of sustainability.



Education and Outreach

EDCO recognizes the vital role that Education and Outreach play in implementing and sustaining safe and effective waste and recycling collection programs. Along with EDCO’s award winning Environmental Times newsletters, EDCO had developed various brochures and flyers that are available to download at edcodisposal.com. These resources are available in multiple languages, upon request.

EDCO has developed the most comprehensive, localized customer oriented web site in the industry at edcodisposal.com. In an effort to promote sustainability and source reduction EDCO has a bi-lingual video library where residents can explore our newest recycling facilities, learn about food waste recycling and get tips on ways to reduce waste.

In addition, EDCO has developed a waste diversion calculator to help residents determine their weekly diversion percentage. The site also features the Where Does it Go search tool that helps residents determine how to divert everyday items from the landfill. This tool increases recycling efforts, encourages donation, home composting, and reducing waste before recycling or disposal.



Community Engagement

As a key component of the education and outreach plan EDCO offers free educational presentations. These presentations are available to schools, multi-family dwellings, and the business community. Presentations focus on reducing, reusing and recycling and last approximately 45 minutes. During the presentations, EDCO distributes brochures, posters, and other promotional and educational materials. Attendees leave the presentation with a greater awareness on sustainable practices that can help increase diversion and preserve the environment.

EDCO also offers tours of its recycling facilities to promote the environmental benefits of Anaerobic Digestion, recycling and source reduction. Participants are able to review, gain information and grow the diversion efforts through direct understanding and involvement.



Active in the Community

We believe in making a difference!

EDCO actively supports the communities we serve. From litter abatement to hometown parades and local clean-ups, your more than likely to see EDCO involved in numerous community events. EDCO considers community involvement not only, as a way to give back to our communities, but also as an opportunity to meet with our customers and supplement public education programs.

During the clean-up events, EDCO provides free mulch and compost to the community. This program serves as an educational tool and closes the recycling loop in the organics recycling program by returning finished products to the community.

In 2023, EDCO distributed over 607 tons of mulch or compost.



EDCO Services At a Glance

Residential

Trash, recycling and organics cart service, kitchen caddies for organics collection, storage containers, temporary bin service, roll-off boxes, bulky item pick up and Christmas tree recycling.



Events

Cardboard trash, recycle and organics boxes, commercial trash, recycle and organics bins or carts and roll-off boxes.



Commercial

Trash, recycle and organics bin and cart services, storage containers, roll-off boxes, compactor services and bulky-item pick up.



Additional Service

Waste assessments, specialized reporting and educational presentations.



Industrial

Trash, recycle and organics roll-off boxes, CDI roll-off boxes and compactor services.



Free Drop Off

Electronic waste recycling , cooking oil recycling, residential batteries recycling and residential sharps recycling .



Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Partnerships

Improperly managed Household Hazardous Waste poses a serious threat to human health and the environment. HHW is the unused or leftover portion of any hazardous chemicals or materials. Items labeled with Toxic, Caution, Danger, Warning, Poison, Flammable, Corrosive, or Reactive are considered a household hazardous waste. EDCO has developed unique environmental partnerships to ensure that HHW is handled safely at the following locations:

Escondido HHW Facility

Partnership with:
City of Escondido



Vista HHW Facility

Partnership with:
Regional Solid Waste Association



La Mesa HHW Facility

Partnership with:
City of La Mesa



Poway HHW Facility

Partnership with:
Regional Solid Waste Association



EDCO's Environmental Center

Partnership with:
City of Signal Hill, City of Long Beach, County of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles County Sanitation District



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICTS**
Converting Waste Into Resources

Ramona HHW Facility

Partnership with:
County of San Diego



Employee Growth & Development

As a family owned and operated company EDCO is committed to offering a rewarding career to our committed team of employees. We focus on providing employees all the training and tools they need so they can grow and be successful within EDCO. EDCO strongly believes in advancing internal personnel first, creating priority promotional opportunities for existing employees.

EDCO's average employee has a 15.5 year tenure with the company, with numerous 20-year, 30-year, 40-year and even several 50-year employees. In addition, EDCO also prides itself on having a number of two and even three generation employees who have worked in the organization.

In order to attract, retain and cultivate this dynamic team, EDCO provides an equal, no cost benefits package to all of its valued employees, from entry level positions to senior management. Included in this no cost benefit package is full health coverage, dental coverage, life insurance and a 401k with a 6% company match.



Employee Appreciation

EDCO's success is thanks to our loyal and dedicated team of employees. Throughout the year we celebrate our valued employees at the Founders Day Celebration, End of Summer BBQ, Christmas Party, and Family Day Events.

In addition, EDCO provides Anniversary Recognition, Thanksgiving Turkeys and Christmas Bonuses.

THANK YOU!



TO OUR

TEAM MEMBERS



Safety First

A key to the success of EDCO collection, processing and transport operations and material handling facilities is the culture of safety within the entire organization.

As a result, EDCO has an extensive environmental and safety program that manages and minimizes risks associated with solid-waste, recycling, and organics collection, handling, recovery, and disposal.

All new and existing EDCO employees at every operational level participate in extensive safety training and review safety and operations related topics in 12 meetings per year. The EDCO annual training program is one of the most comprehensive in the industry. All operations personnel are financially incentivized for their safety record and are rewarded on a quarterly basis.

As evidenced by our Mission Statement, the EDCO vision remains as clear as it was in 1967 ensuring a safe and rewarding career for our employees.



Our Mission Our Vision

Our mission is to efficiently serve the waste collection, disposal and recycling needs of our customers while ensuring a safe and rewarding career for our employees.



We will achieve this objective in a professional, innovative manner that consistently displays our integrity and genuine commitment to provide superior customer service.