Republic Services Shares Three Simple Steps for Recycling Right This America Recycles Day

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PHOENIX, Nov. 12, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- When it comes to recycling, everyone has a part to play. Ahead of America Recycles Day on Nov. 15, Republic Services, Inc. (NYSE: RSG), a leader in the environmental services industry and one of North America's largest recyclers, shares three simple steps to help consumers recycle right and keep valuable material out of landfills.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Americans generate nearly 5 pounds of trash per person every day. Of the 292 million tons of municipal solid waste generated nationally per year, roughly half ends up in landfills. Only 32% is recycled or composted.

This America Recycles Day, Republic Services is calling on everyone to help close that gap by recycling responsibly, giving more recyclable materials a second life as new products and packaging.

"America Recycles Day is a great reminder that recycling doesn't have to be complicated," said Pete Keller, vice president of recycling and sustainability at Republic Services. "It's as easy as putting recyclables into the recycling bin. When everyone follows a few simple steps, more of what goes into your cart can be recycled into something new."

To recycle properly, follow these three simple steps:

- **Know what to throw.** Cardboard, paper products, glass, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs all belong in your recycling bin.
- **Empty, clean and dry.** Rinse recyclables and give them time to dry before recycling.
- **Don't bag recyclables.** Place recyclables loose in your cart. Bags can get tangled in recycling equipment and can harm the recycling process.

The simple act of recycling makes a real difference. In a given year, paper and paperboard recycling alone can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an amount equivalent to taking more than 33 million cars off the road.

Republic Services is doing its part to recycle the material it collects. In 2025, the company processed nearly 5 million tons of recyclables at its 80 recycling centers across North America. But gaps in consumer recycling provide opportunities for improvement.

For example, only 3 out of 10 plastic water bottles make it into the U.S. recycling system today. Through the company's network of Polymer Centers, Republic Services can recycle a water bottle up to seven times, meaning the simple act of putting one water bottle in the recycling bin can create a lasting impact.

In addition, Republic Services reminds consumers that some household items, such as light bulbs, batteries and electronics require special handling and should never be placed in curbside recycling or waste bins. Lithium-ion batteries power everything from cellphones to children's toys, and if damaged, can spark fires.

According to the National Waste & Recycling Association, an estimated 5,000 battery-related fires occur at U.S. recycling facilities each year, putting employees and communities at risk. Visit BatteryNetwork.org to locate retail drop-off locations or participate in a mail-back program through a certified electronics recycler.

This America Recycles Day, commit to improving your recycling habits. For more recycling tips, visit RecyclingSimplified.com.

About Republic Services
Republic Services, Inc. is a leader in the environmental services industry. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides customers with the most complete set of products and services, including recycling, solid waste, special waste, hazardous waste and field services. Republic's industry-leading commitments to advance circularity and support decarbonization are helping deliver on its vision to partner with customers to create a more sustainable world. For more information, please visit RepublicServices.com.

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