



DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

1001 I STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • WWW.CALRECYCLE.CA.GOV • (916) 322-4027
P.O. BOX 4025, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812

To: REGULATED BUSINESS

Re: NEW MANDATORY COMMERCIAL ORGANIC RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS IN CALIFORNIA

We are writing to inform you of new Mandatory Commercial Organic Waste Recycling requirements in California due to the enactment of Assembly Bill 1826 (Chesbro, 2014). These new requirements are designed to move California to its statewide goal of a 75% recycling rate, including a reduction in the level of organic waste disposal by 50% from its current levels. Cities and Counties are required to provide programs to assist businesses in meeting these requirements. Some or all of your business locations within California have been or will be contacted by the City or County they are located within regarding the new requirements to recycle all of the organic material they generate and the availability of organics recycling options available in their City or County. The overall requirements are described below, and also a copy of the bill can be found at: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/>.

Organic Waste

Organic waste is defined in the bill as including food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste. We believe that some or all of your businesses in California generate this type of waste.

Covered Businesses

The law sets forth a gradual increase in the number of businesses subject to these requirements. On and after April 1, 2016, if any of your locations in California generates eight cubic yards or more of organic waste per week, they will be subject to the requirements noted below. On and after January 1, 2017, that threshold is lowered to include your locations that generate four cubic yards or more of organic waste per week. On and after January 1, 2019, that threshold is lowered again to include your locations that generate four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste, regardless of how much of that waste is organic.

The California Legislature has also allowed CalRecycle to lower that threshold to include your locations that generate two cubic yards or more per week of commercial solid waste, regardless of how much of that waste is organic, if after January 1, 2020, CalRecycle determines that statewide disposal of organic waste has not been reduced to 50 percent of the level of disposal during 2014.

Required Recycling

If any of your locations generate enough waste to be subject to the thresholds noted above, they are required to take at least one of the following actions:

- 1) Source separate organic waste from other waste and subscribe to a basic level of organic waste recycling service that includes collection and recycling of organic waste.
- 2) Recycle its organic waste onsite or self-haul its own organic waste for recycling.



- 3) Subscribe to an organic waste recycling service that may include mixed waste processing that specifically recycles organic waste.
- 4) Make other arrangements consistent with the existing right of a business to sell or donate its recyclable organic waste materials.

Additional Information on the Requirements and Tools for Complying

CalRecycle has prepared responses to a number of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding all aspects of the new requirement. This information can be found at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/FAQ.htm>. In addition, CalRecycle has developed a number of tools to assist businesses in assessing their current practices and how to comply with this law. This information can be found at: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/>.

If you would like to discuss these requirements and particular options for your locations in California, you can find contact information for local recycling coordinators for particular jurisdictions at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Contacts/Default.htm>. You can also contact CalRecycle to discuss these requirements at LAMD@calrecycle.ca.gov or (916) 341-6199.

Compliance

Cities and County programs will be subject to review and approval or compliance orders and penalties from CalRecycle. Thus, many jurisdictions are in the process of adopting local ordinances that include enforcement provisions which they may apply to businesses that are not in compliance with the above requirements.

It is CalRecycle's belief that significant strides can be made in reducing the unnecessary disposal of organic waste which will be of benefit to all of California, including its businesses. Over the past twenty five years, CalRecycle has endeavored to work with stakeholders to achieve a mutually beneficial increase in recycling and is notifying you of these requirements so that we may work together toward this goal.

Sincerely,

Cara Morgan

Cara Morgan, Branch Chief
Local Assistance and Market Development Branch
CalRecycle