

Did you know?

Recyclable organic waste accounts for about **40%** of the annual material disposed of in landfills. Californians throw away nearly six-million tons of food scraps or food waste each year. In order to reach California's goal of **75%** source reduction, recycling and composting food waste must be implemented.



Municipal Operations Department

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Resources

For additional information, please visit the California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) websites:

- calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics
- calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics/faq
- calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/food



What You Need to Know About Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling (AB1826)



New State Requirements for Businesses and Multifamily Complexes

Purpose of Organics Recycling

Organics recycling is an efficient disposal alternative aimed at improving the environment by reducing greenhouse emissions and conserving natural resources. The organics recycling process converts food waste, green waste, wood waste, cardboard and more into valuable new products such as compost materials, renewable fuel and renewable energy.

Commercial Organics Recycling Requirements

State law (AB 1826) mandates businesses that generate a specific amount of organic waste per week to recycle organic material, including the food brought in for consumption by employees. Multifamily complexes with five or more units are only required to recycle green waste.

Timeline

The requirement for mandatory commercial organics recycling will be phased in over several years. Businesses and multifamily complexes are required to comply with organic waste recycling based on the amount and type of waste generated per week by the dates indicated below.

- April 1, 2016 – Eight or more cubic yards of organic waste.
- January 1, 2017 – Four or more cubic yards of organic waste.
- January 1, 2019 – Four or more cubic yards of solid waste.
- January 1, 2020 – If statewide organic waste disposal is not reduced by 50 percent in 2020, organic recycling expands to businesses generating two cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste.

What is Organic Waste?

Organic waste is any biodegradable material that comes from either a plant or an animal. Examples of organic waste include food waste, food-soiled paper, non-hazardous wood waste, green waste, and landscape and pruning waste.

Food Waste



sandwiches cheese vegetables fruit fast food



chicken bread rice

Food Soiled Paper excludes Styrofoam



coffee filters tea bags pizza boxes paper cups napkins



paper towels tissues wrappers egg cartons paper plates

Non-Hazardous Wood Waste unpainted & untreated wood



cardboard lumber pallets plywood

Green Waste



cut flowers grass leaves branches weeds

How to Comply

Businesses and multifamily complexes can meet the requirements of mandatory organics recycling by taking one or more of the following actions:

- 1 Separate organic waste at the source from all other waste. Contact your waste hauler to arrange for organic waste recycling service, which requires a separate bin.
- 2 Sell or donate the generated organic waste to a permitted facility; this includes county-permitted food pantries that will redistribute food to those in need.
- 3 Subscribe to an organic waste recycling service that includes mixed-waste processing that specifically recycles organic waste.
- 4 Recycle organic waste onsite or self-haul organic waste for recycling. The City may require you to provide proof that you are self-hauling or that you have a permit to self-haul.

To arrange for organic waste recycling, please contact the waste hauler servicing your business. Visit newportbeachca.gov/refuse to view a list of franchise haulers permitted to operate in Newport Beach.