

What Goes In The Green Organics Bin And What Doesn't



Resources

Local Resources

Tips and information on best practices for waste reduction and recycling:

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Clean LA for Business:

<http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/cleanla/Business.aspx>

Provides various resources and links pertaining to business recycling and waste reduction.

State Resources

1. CalRecycle Business & Industry Assistance: (<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Business/default.htm>). Provides information to businesses on how to comply with California's recycling requirements along with various resources and tools to help businesses to become more sustainable by reducing their carbon foot print.
2. Mandatory Organic Recycling (MORe) Home Page: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/>
3. Mandatory Organic Recycling (MORe) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/FAQ.htm>
4. CalRecycle Food Scrap Management Home Page: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/Food/default.htm>
5. California Air Resources Board (ARB) Small Business Toolkit: www.CoolCalifornia.org

Contact Information

AMERICAN RECLAMATION

4560 Doran Street
Los Angeles, CA 90039-1006

Toll Free: (888) 999-9330

Email: info@socoastrec.com

www.americanreclamationinc.com

California Businesses and Multifamily Complexes Will Soon Be Required to Recycle Their Organic Waste



AMERICAN RECLAMATION

For your local recycling and waste removal needs

With the passage of AB 1826, new organic recycling requirements will be phased in over several years and will help the state meet its goal to recycle 75 percent of its waste by 2020.

Businesses, including public entities and multifamily complexes of 5 units or more are required to recycle their organic waste on and after April 1, 2016, depending on the amount of waste they generate per week.

Please read this brochure to learn more about the required organic waste collection and recycling. American Reclamation is requesting that you complete and return the attached survey form so we can develop options for you to comply with the new law in the future.

DID YOU KNOW? Recyclable organic waste accounts for about 40 percent of the material Californians dispose in landfills annually.¹ Recycling organic waste can save local El Monte businesses money by reducing disposal costs while supporting green jobs in our community.



¹ California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

Regulatory Requirements

The law requires that businesses arrange for recycling services for the following types of organic waste:

food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper.² Multifamily complexes must arrange for recycling services for the same material with the exception of food waste and food-soiled paper. Most organic waste is recyclable through methods such as composting, mulching, and anaerobic digestion. Organic recycling services often accept a wide variety of different types of organic waste.

Businesses and multifamily complexes must start recycling organic waste by the following dates:

April 1, 2016 – generators of 8 or more cubic yards of organic waste per week;

January 1, 2017 – generators of 4 or more cubic yards of organic waste per week;

January 1, 2019 – generators of 4 or more cubic yards of solid waste per week;

***January 1, 2020** – generators of 2 or more cubic yards of solid waste per week, if statewide disposal of organic waste is not decreased by half.

Organic Recycling Services

The requirement to recycle organic waste can be met by taking one or any combination of the following actions, provided that the action is in compliance with local ordinances and requirements.³

1. Source-separate organic waste from other waste and subscribe to an organic waste recycling service that specifically includes collection and recycling of organic waste.
2. Recycle organic waste onsite, or self-haul organic waste for organic recycling.
3. Subscribe to an organic waste recycling service that includes mixed waste processing that specifically recycles organic waste.
4. Sell or donate the generated organic waste.

² Food-soiled paper includes items such as wax coated food containers and soiled napkins mixed with food waste. Food-soiled paper does not include paper products with a plastic coating (e.g.: paper cups with a polyethylene coating).

American Reclamation will help local businesses and multifamily residences of 5 units or more comply with the new law.

Prior to the deadline to start recycling their organic waste, every local jurisdiction is required to implement an organic waste recycling program to provide organic recycling options, educate businesses and multifamily complexes about their local organic recycling options, and monitor implementation. American Reclamation is providing a survey form to each of its commercial and multifamily residential customers to identify those impacted by the new law, determine their needs and develop organics recycling options to be offered to them.

Why Recycle Organic Waste?

Organic waste composes 40% of waste material disposed in California landfills. Under landfill decomposition conditions, the organic waste creates methane (CH₄) gas which is the 2nd most prevalent greenhouse gas causing climate change. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, methane accounts for 10% of our nation's greenhouse gas emissions from human activities. "Pound for pound, the comparative impact of CH₄ on climate change is 25 times greater than CO₂ (carbon dioxide) over a 100-year period." By reducing and recycling their organic waste, Californians can reduce methane gas emissions and improve the environment and air quality.

Success Stories

Albertsons grocery stores in San Diego have participated in the collection of food scraps for compost and food rescue for disadvantaged communities since 2011. Edible food is donated to the Feeding America food bank, and inedible food is sent for composting at the Miramar Greenery, operated by the City of San Diego. Fifteen stores participate in this program, resulting in 58 tons of edible food donations and 37 tons of food scraps composted annually.

The Hyatt Regency hotel in Sacramento began a food and green waste collection program in 2011. This high-rise hotel has 503 guest rooms, 4 restaurants, and a main kitchen serving about 1,975 meals daily. In the first year, the hotel diverted more than 243 tons of food waste to CleanWorld Partners, an anaerobic digestion facility, where it is converted into renewable natural gas for fuel.

³ Prior to taking action to recycle organic waste, a business should check with the City of El Monte recycling coordinator for more information about local requirements. See the next page for local recycling exemptions and options.