



Frequently Asked Questions

What is commercial solid waste?

Includes all types of solid waste generated by a store, office or other public entity, including multifamily dwellings.

Are we allowed to throw away any food material?

Covered businesses shall recycle, donate or otherwise source reduce all food waste generated.

For a venue that hosts events, such as convention centers or parks, is the requirement on the venue or the event?

The requirement to recycle organics is on the venue. However, there may be specific local recycling requirements for large events.

What options exist for food donation?

A number of options exist to enable your donation feed hungry people. For additional information please visit:

TinyURL.com/CountyFoodDonation

TinyURL.com/BusinessFoodDonationGuide

TinyURL.com/FoodWasteReductionSD

Do any exceptions exist?

If a covered entity (i.e. business, school, government agency, multifamily residential dwelling etc) generates less than 1/2 cubic yard of organics per week, they are exempt from AB 1826 requirements. Other exemptions may exist. For additional information, visit TinyURL.com/AB1826

Additional Resources for AB 1826

TinyURL.com/YardTrimming

TinyURL.com/CountyofSanDiegoComposting

TinyURL.com/CalRecycleAB1826

General Recycling Resources for Businesses

R1Earth.org
WasteFreeSD.org



Organics Recycling for Businesses: Assistance Guide

Your guide to learn about:

- State law AB 1826
- How this law applies to you
- How to comply with the law
- FAQ's
- Additional Resources





About the Law: AB 1826

Mandatory Organics Recycling

In October 2014, Governor Brown signed AB 1826 Chesbro (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014), requiring businesses to recycle their organic waste.

Organic waste includes:

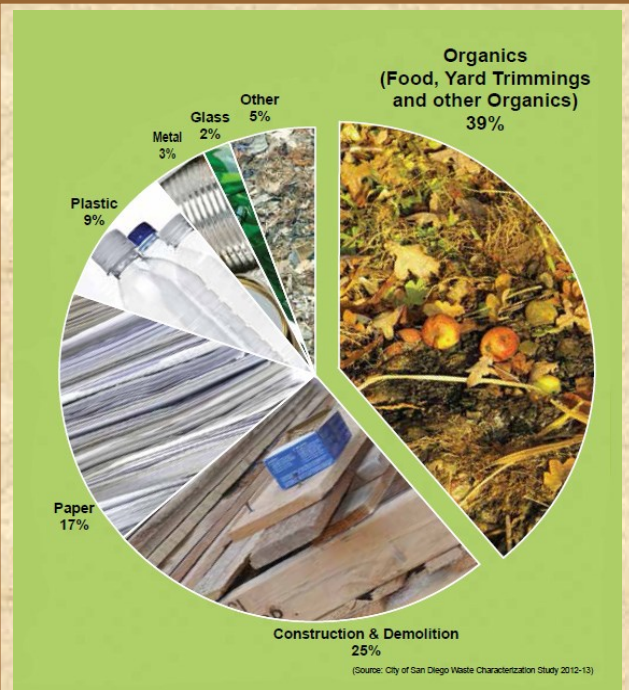
- Food waste
- Yard trimmings (landscaping & pruning waste)
- Untreated/unpainted wood
- Food soiled paper

Businesses, including public entities, that generate 4 cubic yards or more of combined solid waste and recycling weekly and multifamily complexes of 4 units or more, are required to recycle their organic waste.

Please note that multifamily dwellings are not required to have a food waste diversion program.

Why Recycle Organics?

It is State law. Also, countywide, San Diego landfills over one million tons of organic waste each year. Organic waste accounts for 39% of the total material disposed of in landfills annually. Recycling organic waste can save businesses money by reducing disposal costs while supporting green jobs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



How to Comply:

The requirement to recycle organic waste can be met by taking one or more of the following actions:

- Donate extra food to feed people or animals.
- Recycle organic waste onsite (compost).
- Source-separate organic waste from other waste and subscribe to an organic waste recycling service.
- Self-haul organic waste for organic recycling (proof of transport & tracking required).

Free Technical Assistance is Available!

The County of San Diego offers free on-site visits to help businesses and multifamily properties comply with AB 1826 and its mandatory organics recycling requirements.

If you are unsure if your business or property is required to comply with AB 1826, contact County Recycling at 858-694-2456, email Recycle@sdcounty.ca.gov or contact your local solid waste hauler for assistance.