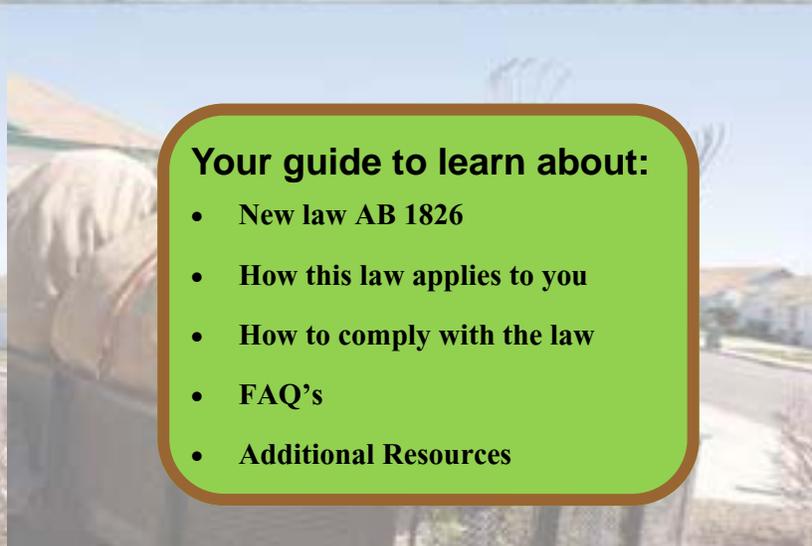


Organics Recycling for Businesses: Assistance Guide



Your guide to learn about:

- New 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

With the passage of AB 1826, new organic recycling requirements will be phased in over several years that will help meet the state's goal to recycle 75% of our waste by 2020.

Organic waste includes:

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

Businesses including public entities, and multifamily complexes of 5 units or more are required to recycle their organic waste after April 1, 2016, or over the next three years, depending on the amount of waste they generate per week. Please note that multifamily dwellings are not required to have a food waste diversion program.

Businesses must start recycling by:

 **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**

Why Recycle Organics?

Countywide, San Diego landfills over one million tons of organic waste each year. Recyclable organic material accounts for about 40% of the total material disposed of in the landfill annually. Recycling organic waste can save businesses money by reducing disposal costs while supporting green jobs in the community.



(Source: City of San Diego Waste Characterization Study 2012-13)

How to Comply

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

- Source-separate organic waste from other waste and subscribe to an organic waste recycling service that specifically includes collection and recycling of organic waste.
- Recycle organic waste onsite.
- Self-haul organic waste for organic recycling. (Proof of transport & tracking required).
- Subscribe to an organic waste recycling service that includes mixed waste processing that specifically recycles organic waste.
- Donate extra food to feed people or animals.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who has to comply with the law?

Any business or public entity, including schools, universities, nonprofit entities, strip malls, government agencies and multifamily residential dwellings.



What is commercial solid waste?

It includes all types of solid waste generated by a store, office or other public entity, including multifamily dwellings of more than five units. The commercial sector generates nearly 2/3 of waste in California.

Are we allowed to throw away any food material? A covered business shall recycle all food waste generated.

Is the cubic yards of waste per week determined by location of all business operations, possibly at multiple sites? The threshold applies to individual business sites.

For a venue that hosts events, such as convention centers or parks, is the requirement on the venue or the event? The requirement under AB 1826 to recycle organics is on the venue, however there may be specific local recycling requirements for large events.

Do any exceptions exist? The law allows jurisdictions to, on a case-by-case basis, grant exceptions to businesses that meet the following criteria:

- The business currently implements programs that result in the recycling or reduction of a significant portion of organic waste.
- The business does not generate at least one-half of a cubic yard of organic waste per week.
- Businesses lack the sufficient space to provide additional recycling bins for organic material.
- Limited term exceptions may be granted for extraordinary and unforeseen events.



Additional Resources

Please visit these resources for additional information regarding composting and food donation tips.



More about AB 1826:

- **CalRecycle Handout:**
www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications/Documents/1527/201501527.pdf
- **CalRecycle AB 1826 Homepage:**
www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/
- **County of San Diego AB 1826:**
www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/AB1826.html
- **Food Scraps Management:**
www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/Food/default.htm

Food Donation:

- **County of San Diego Food Donation:**
www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/Food.html

Composting and Green Waste:

- **County of San Diego Composting:**
www.sandiegocounty.gov/dpw/recycling/composting.html
- **The Solana Center Composting:**
www.solanacenter.org/composting
- **Yard Trimmings Guide (including compost and mulch facilities)**
tinyurl.com/yardtrimming

General Recycling Resources for Businesses:

- **County of San Diego Recycling Hotline**
1-877-R-1-EARTH
www.WasteFreeSD.org
www.R1Earth.org