Assembly Bill 1826 - Commercial Organic Waste Recycling

Dear Property Owner/Manager,

In October of 2014, Governor Brown signed into law Assembly Bill 1826 requiring businesses in California to recycle their organic waste. Organic waste consists of mainly food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste. This new law also required that local cities and counties across the state implement an organic waste recycling program to divert organic waste from the landfill where they would naturally decay and release harmful methane gas into the atmosphere.

The State’s new recycling requirement also includes multi-family residential dwellings that consist of five or more units. Please note, however, that multi-family dwellings are not required to have a food waste diversion program; only yard waste.

The new State law phases in commercial organics recycling over the next few years. In particular, the minimum amount of organic waste generation allowed before a recycling program is required decreases over time, which means that an increasingly greater proportion of the commercial sector will be required to implement an organics recycling program.

To assist you with the implementation of this new recycling requirement, CR&R Environmental Services is reaching out to businesses in order to provide critical information about your recycling options. Included with this letter you will find an Organic Waste Fact Sheet which includes an overview of Assembly Bill 1826. In addition, there is a self assessment guide to help you identify when your business or multi-family facility may need to establish organic waste services. If you meet the minimum thresholds, you will need to establish a separate organic waste recycling service in order to comply with State mandates.

Please contact CR&R’s Customer Service Department at 800-755-8112 for additional information and guidance. In addition, you can also visit various websites listed on the attached Fact Sheet.

Thank you for your continued patronage. Together we can make a positive difference for our environment!

Sincerely,

CR&R Environmental Services
IT'S THE LAW! BUSINESS RECYCLING

RECYCLING LEGISLATION

Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826) will require businesses to separate their food scraps and green waste for recycling. AB 1826 builds on the success of the mandatory commercial recycling program established by AB 341. Please see the timeline below for implementation requirements:

- 2016 - All businesses with 8 or more yards of organic waste per week
- 2017 - All businesses with 4 or more yards of organic waste per week
- 2019 - All businesses with 4 or more yards of solid waste per week

Information about organic waste recycling requirements is available from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) at http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics/.

Assembly Bill 341 (AB 341) requires all jurisdictions to meet the diversion goal of 75% by 2020 resulting in businesses that generate 4 or more cubic yards of waste to either:

- Participate in a recycling program with their local waste hauler.
- Donate, sell and/or self-haul materials to a recycling facility.

Information about California’s business recycling requirements is available from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) at http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/.

Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939) required jurisdictions to meet diversion goals of 25% by 1995 and 50% by the year 2000 resulting in the implementation of:

- Drop-off recycling programs
- Curbside recycling
- Commercial recycling
- Construction and demolition recycling

NEW

ORGANICS PROGRAM

Returning organic materials to the soil drastically reduces the environmental impacts of landfills, reduces greenhouse gases, creates jobs and helps sustain California’s agricultural industry.

RECYCLE PROGRAMS

1. PERRIS TRANSFER / MATERIALS PROCESSING

CR&R will do the recycling for you at our Material Recovery Facility (MRF). We will collect your waste and transport it to our MRF where we will pull recyclables from your waste stream through a process of manual and mechanical sorting. When your employees don’t need to sort your waste, it allows them time to grow your business.

2. SOURCE SEPARATED RECYCLING

Your business may generate a large amount of one type of recyclable material such as cardboard. CR&R can help you determine the best container for your needs based on the quantity and type of material.

3. CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

With construction and demolition (C&D) debris making up a large percentage of all material entering California landfills, CR&R can help you divert as much as possible through a combination of source separation and mixed processing. Prior to starting your project, contact CR&R to find out what options will work best for your site. Planning ahead will assist you in diverting as much material as possible, as cost effectively as possible.

4. LEED PROGRAM

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized green building certification system. CR&R is prepared to help you meet your construction based LEED goals. We are flexible enough to work with you on all building types - commercial as well as residential.

Items that will be permitted in your organics container:

- Food Preparation Scraps
- Table Scraps
- Food-Soiled Paper
- Plants
- Flowers
- Coffee Grounds and much more.

To obtain additional information or subscribe to recycling service call CR&R Environmental Services and ask to speak with a Sustainability Coordinator for your area.
ORGANIC WASTE FACT SHEET

Does This Affect My Business?

How do I know if my business or multi-family complex will be required to have organic waste recycling?

Initially, most entities that will be required to have organics recycling service will be in the food service industry (such as commissaries, grocery stores and restaurants) or multi-family complexes (that consist of five or more units) with green waste or yard trimmings. But after January 1, 2019, all businesses that generate four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week, regardless of type, must arrange for organic waste recycling services.

Where can I find more information about AB 1826?

Customers who are interested in learning more about AB 1826 can visit the State of California's CalRecycle web page on Mandatory Commercial Recycling (http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/).

Take the AB 1826 Assessment

BUSINESS ORGANIC WASTE - SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. Does your business generate any of the following waste: Compostables containers, food waste, food soiled paper, green waste, (including landscape and pruning waste) and non-hazardous wood waste? YES □ NO □

2. Does your business currently generate more than eight (8) cubic yards of organic waste per week? YES □ NO □

3. Does your business currently generate more than four (4) cubic yards of organic waste per week? YES □ NO □

4. Does your level of trash service exceed four (4) cubic yards per week? YES □ NO □

MULTI-FAMILY COMPLEX ORGANIC WASTE - SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. Does your multi-family complex (with five units or more) generate any green waste, including landscape and pruning waste and non-hazardous wood waste? YES □ NO □

2. Does your multi-family complex currently generate more than eight (8) cubic yards of green waste per week? YES □ NO □

3. Does your multi-family complex currently generate more than four (4) cubic yards of green waste per week? YES □ NO □

4. Does your level of trash service exceed four (4) cubic yards per week? YES □ NO □

If you answered "Yes" to Questions #1, AB 1826 will apply to your business or multi-family complex.
If you answered "Yes" to Question #2 you will need to arrange for organic waste recycling service by April 1, 2016.
If you answered "Yes" to Question #3 you will need to arrange for organic waste recycling service by January 1, 2017.
If you answered "Yes" to Question #4 you will need to arrange for organic recycling service by January 1, 2019.