

MULTI-FAMILY PROPERTIES WITH 5+ UNITS AND BUSINESSES IN OAKLAND

must keep their recyclables and compostables separate from the garbage.

ENFORCEMENT EXPANDS January 1, 2017.

ACWMA ORDINANCE 2012-01

Attention Oakland Property Owners and Managers:

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority Mandatory Recycling Ordinance 2012-01 and state law (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011 [Chesbro, AB 341]) have mandated recycling in **Oakland** since July 1, 2012 for businesses and institutions with 4 or more cubic yards of weekly garbage service as well as all multi-family properties with 5 or more units.

Phase 2 of the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance began July 1, 2014, adding all businesses regardless of garbage service level to the list of accounts affected by the Ordinance. Effective July 1, 2016, all businesses that regularly generate organics (e.g. restaurants and grocery stores) and multi-family properties with 5 or more units are also required to arrange for separate collection of organics (food scraps, compostable paper, and plant debris). Many businesses are also required by state law (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014 [Chesbro, AB 1826]) to subscribe to organics collection service.

This letter is to notify you that, beginning January 1, 2017, ACWMA will actively enforce all phases of the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance to determine compliance. Expanded enforcement activities include inspection for compliance with the new organics collection requirements. Violations could result in a citation and fine.

FOLLOW THE LAW TO AVOID POSSIBLE CITATION AND FINE

Property owners and managers of commercial properties and multi-family properties with five or more units may be cited and possibly fined for the following violations:

- 1. New!** For businesses and institutions that generate significant quantities* of organics such as restaurants and grocery stores and for multi-family properties: Failure to provide containers and collection service of sufficient number, size, and frequency for **organics** (food scraps, compostable paper, and plant debris) at the same or an equally convenient location as garbage.
- 2.** Failure to provide containers and collection service for recyclables of sufficient number, size, and collection frequency for **recyclable materials** at the same or an equally convenient location as garbage. Materials that must be recycled include: cardboard, newspaper, white paper, mixed recyclable paper, recyclable glass food and beverage containers, metal (aluminum and steel) food and beverage containers, PET (#1) and HDPE (#2) plastic bottles. The recycling service must be able to capture all of the recyclables generated on-site.

- 3.** Failure to provide information at least annually to employees, tenants, and contractors describing how to properly use the recycling and garbage containers, as well as no later than 14 days after move-in and no less than 14 days prior to move-out.

Businesses and institutions may also be cited, and possibly fined for:

- 4. New!** For businesses and institutions that generate significant quantities* of organics such as restaurants and grocery stores: Failure to place food scraps and compostable paper in a separate container for organics collection.
- 5.** Disposing of recyclable materials in the garbage.
- 6.** Disposing of garbage in the recycling or organics containers.

* See the definition of "significant quantity" on the reverse side.

WHAT ARE "ORGANICS"?

When we refer to “organics,” we are not talking about the pesticide-free produce you buy at the grocery store. Organics is a term used to describe compostable materials such as food scraps, food-soiled paper, and plant debris. These materials, when sent to a composting facility, will become compost – a valuable resource used by landscapers and farmers.

The Mandatory Recycling Ordinance requires “discarded food” and “compostable paper” to be kept separate from garbage and placed in a container for organics collection. Compostable materials that now must be kept separate from the garbage include items such as:

- Food prep trimmings
- Spoiled or contaminated food
- Paper contaminated with food or oils such as pizza boxes and bakery boxes
- Paper that is wet
- Paper plates, towels, and napkins

WHAT IS A "SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY"?

The Ordinance prohibits the disposal of any food scraps or food-soiled paper in the garbage. However, currently only businesses and institutions that generate a “significant quantity” of organics are required to have separate collection service. Organics are considered significant when 20 gallons (four 5-gal buckets) or more of organics are disposed of in a garbage bin or 10 gallons (two 5-gal buckets) or more are disposed of in a garbage cart. To determine if you exceed the threshold, take a look in your garbage bins or carts the day before collection day.



Garbage Bin



Garbage Cart

SETTING-UP COLLECTION SERVICE

To set-up organics collection service, contact Waste Management of Alameda County at (510) 613-8700, email csnorthbay@wm.com, or visit www.OakandRecycles.com. Recycling service is open market for businesses in Oakland – shop around for the service that works best for you. A directory of recycling service providers is available at www.OaklandRecycles.com/businesses.

To order recycling service for a multi-family property in Oakland, call California Waste Solutions at (510) OAKLAND (625-5263) or email OaklandCS@calwaste.com.

RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE

- **Free site visits** to identify specific opportunities to reduce waste, comply with the law and often save money on solid waste bills.
 - » www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/Request-Assistance
- **Downloadable posters and signs** – Options include posters specific to Oakland, generic signs for use in any city, and even a sign-maker tool to customize signs to fit your site’s needs.
 - » www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/city-of-oakland
 - » www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/support-materials
- **Template letters** for compliance with the annual notification requirement.
 - » www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/support-materials
- **Free indoor food scrap bins** – Up to \$500 per approved site.
 - » www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/Containers

