

MULTI-FAMILY PROPERTIES (5+ units) in Hayward
must keep organics separate from the garbage.

ENFORCEMENT EXPANDS January 1, 2016.

ACWMA ORDINANCE 2012-01

Attention Hayward Property Owners and Managers:

The Mandatory Recycling Ordinance of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA) was implemented in two Phases:

Phase 1 of the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance began July 1, 2012 requiring recycling at businesses and institutions with four or more cubic yards of garbage per week and multi-family properties with five or more units.

Phase 2 of the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance began July 1, 2015 and expanded the organics requirements to multi-family properties and businesses that generate “significant” quantities of organics. Requirements to collect recyclables at businesses with less than four cubic yards of garbage per week will become effective July 1, 2016.

This letter is to notify you that, beginning January 1, 2016, ACWMA will actively enforce the Ordinance to determine compliance at multi-family properties. Violations could result in a citation and fine.

FOLLOW THE LAW TO AVOID POSSIBLE CITATION AND FINE

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

1. Failure to provide containers and collection service for organics (food scraps and compostable paper) of sufficient number, size and/or collection frequency to handle all of the organics generated at that location. This rule applies to all businesses that generate significant quantities of organics and all multi-family properties (5+ units).
2. Failure to provide containers and collection service for recyclables of sufficient number, size and/or collection frequency to handle all of the recyclables generated at that location. 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.
3. Failure to provide information at least annually to employees, tenants and contractors describing how to properly use the recycling, organics and garbage containers, as well as no later than 14 days after move-in and no less than 14 days prior to move-out.

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 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. Organic 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, as well as paper plates, towels and napkins.

SETTING-UP COLLECTION SERVICE

Multi-family properties should contact Waste Management of Alameda County at (510) 537-5500 to set up organics collection service. Contact Tri-CED Community Recycling at (510) 537-9963 to set up recycling collection service or request additional carts. Additional resources available online at www.RecyclingRulesAC.org include:

- Downloadable posters and signs – Click on Hayward under the “Rules by City” tab to find posters specific to your city’s services, or go to the “Support Materials” section for generic posters and even a sign-maker tool.
- Template letters for compliance with the annual notification requirement.