

BUSINESSES IN HAYWARD THAT REGULARLY GENERATE FOOD SCRAPS MUST KEEP THEIR 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 requirements to organics for 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 both phases of the 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 that generate "significant" quantities of organics* 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 frequency to handle all of the organics generated at that location.
2. Failure to place food scraps and compostable paper in a separate container for organics collection.
3. Disposing of garbage in organics containers.

* Organics are considered to be “significant” when 10 or more gallons are disposed of in a garbage cart or 20 or more gallons of organics are disposed of in a garbage bin.

In addition to the violations listed to the left, businesses and institutions with 4 or more cubic yards of weekly garbage service may be cited and possibly fined for any of the following violations:

4. 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.
5. Disposing of the following recyclable materials in the garbage: 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.
6. Disposing of garbage in recycling containers.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR ALL PROPERTIES COVERED BY THE ORDINANCE

All businesses, institutions and multi-family property owners and managers must also 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
- Paper plates, towels and napkins

SETTING-UP COLLECTION SERVICE

Businesses should contact Waste Management of Alameda County at (510) 537-5500 to set up organics or recycling collection service.

Online resources are available at www.RecyclingRulesAC.org, including:

- **Downloadable posters and signs** – Click on the City of 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.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

- 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
- Free indoor food scrap bins – A variety of containers and lids are available. Up to \$500 per approved business.
 - » www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/Containers

Sign up at www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/Stay-Informed to receive important news, updates and resources related to the recycling laws as they become available.