Multi-Family Complexes Must Also Recycle

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Union City collects a mandatory multi-family recycling fee, and most complexes already have basic recycling services. Services that can improve recycling efforts or help start a new program include:

• Onsite audits to assess your recycling concerns and solutions.
• Educational materials for tenants.
• Signs and posters for recycling areas.
• Union City Recycles trash bags to easily store and carry recyclables.
• Assistance from Tri-CED's Green Team.

Call Union City Recycles at (510) 675-5466 for more information.

Bag Ban

On January 2, 2013, stores in Alameda County that sell perishable food will no longer be able to distribute any type of plastic bags at the checkout island. Recycled content paper bags may be provided, but only if the retailer charges customers 10 cents per bag. Shoppers are encouraged to “Bring Your Own Bag.”

Mandatory Commercial Recycling Is Here

Union City businesses and multi-family property owners should be aware of new state and local recycling requirements that go into effect this summer. California’s new Mandatory Commercial Recycling regulations apply to businesses that generate more than 10 cubic yards of commercial waste per week and to multi-family residential dwellings of five units or more. If you qualify, you must arrange for recycling services by July 1. Businesses can meet this recycling requirement in a variety of ways, such as signing up for regular recycling collection provided by Union City’s exclusive haulers, Allied Waste Services and Tri-CED Community Recycling.

In addition, Union City recently joined most other cities in Alameda County in approving a local mandatory commercial recycling ordinance. It specifies which materials need to be recycled, such as paper, cardboard and beverage/food bottles and cans. It also requires businesses to obtain a level of recycling service that is adequate for the amount of recyclables they generate. Many businesses in town are already saving time and money by participating in Union City’s single-stream recycling program, which eliminates the need to separate recyclable materials. Cans, paper bottles, paper products, etc. all go into the same cart or bin, which makes recycling easier than ever before.

In 2014, all businesses will be required to recycle just those generating four or more cubic yards of waste per week and organic such as food and compostable paper will be added to the list of mandated recyclables. Get a head start by signing up for Union City’s Food Scrap Recycling for Business program, which is already popular with many area restaurants, grocery stores and other businesses.

The City is promoting mandatory recycling through a business assistance recycling program. Businesses can request a waste evaluation to identify where they can recycle more and reduce waste. Then by discounted rates for recycling, businesses could lower their waste collection costs. To learn more, contact Allied Waste Services (510) 657-3500), Tri-CED (510) 429-8030) or Union City Recycles (510) 675-5466.

Mandatory Recycling At-A-Glance

When does it go into effect:

• Effective July 1, 2013
• By householders who at least 4 cubic yards of solid waste per week
• In multi-family complexes with 5+ units
• In two-family complexes with 3+ units
• In commercially operating companies with 5+ units
• In wholesale/retail/food companies with 15+ units
• In restaurants, bars, ice cream parlors and such
• In recycling paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, metal and recyclable cans
• In presentation veils and usually optional
• In non-profit youth service facilities (by 1st quarter of 2014)
• In residential multi-family complexes with 3+ units

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Continued on back page.
Union City’s Exclusive Franchise Haulers

Union City commercial accounts and multifamily complexes deserve and depend on quality service that is responsive to everyday business needs. That’s why the City signed franchise agreements with Allied Waste Services and Tri-CED Community Recycling. The contracts grant the two companies exclusive rights to collect, transport, and process solid waste, recyclable materials, and organic materials in Union City, with only a few exceptions.

Why do cities sign exclusive franchise agreements? They help ensure that haulers abide by specific service standards, rate control measures, environmental regulations and reporting requirements. Taking a header either Allied Waste Services and Tri-CED Community Recycling for recycling or solid waste disposal is a violation of the Union City Municipal Code and could result in code enforcement action by the City.

Union City’s exclusive franchise haulers are experienced in providing high-quality service without disruption. Both work closely with customers and the City to quickly address any concerns. Contact Allied Waste at (510) 857-3500 or Tri-CED Community Recycling at (510) 429-8030 to arrange for service.

Contact us for more information about sizes, rates and services.

Commercial Food Scraps Collection

The newest recycling program we offer commercial customers is one of the most popular. More and more restaurants, grocery stores and other businesses are signing up for Union City’s Food Scrap Recycling for Business Program. It’s a great way to save money and reduce waste.

By participating in the commercial organics program, food scraps and food-soiled paper products such as cups and plates are sent to a composting facility. Instead of taking up space in the landfill, your food scraps become compost – a valuable resource used by landscapers and farmers.

Call us today to learn more about our free training, technical assistance and in-kitchen containers, signs and stickers.

Is your business ready to help lead the compost revolution?