



## RECYCLING **AND COMPOSTING** IS MANDATORY FOR ALL BUSINESSES & MOST MULTI-FAMILY HOMES

[RecyclingRulesAC.org](http://RecyclingRulesAC.org)

ACWMA ORDINANCE 2012-01

### **Attention:** Owners and Managers of Businesses and Multi-family Properties in Oakland

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority Mandatory Recycling Ordinance 2012-01 has 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 multi-family properties with 5 or more units. Phase 2 of the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance began July 1, 2015, 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 required to arrange for separate collection of organics (food scraps, compostable paper, and plant debris). To order compost (organics) collection service in Oakland, contact Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC) at (510) 613-8700, email a request to [csnorthbay@wm.com](mailto:csnorthbay@wm.com) or visit: [www.OaklandRecycles.com](http://www.OaklandRecycles.com).*

### RECYCLING RULES

**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:**

- **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 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.
- Failure to provide containers and service of sufficient number, size, and 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.

- 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.

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

- **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.
- Disposing of recyclable materials in the garbage.
- Disposing of garbage in recycling or organics containers.

Property owners and managers have until the end of the year to complete the steps necessary to comply with the new organics requirements. No fines will be issued before January 1, 2017 for organics violations.

\* 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

Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC) is the exclusive provider of garbage and compost (organics) collection services in the City of Oakland. California Waste Solutions (CWS) is the exclusive provider of recycling collection services for all residential properties. WMAC and CWS provide free on-site waste and recycling assessments upon request.

For Oakland businesses and institutions, cans, bottles, paper and cardboard recycling is open market – shop around for the service that works best for you. A directory of recycling service providers for businesses is available at [www.OaklandRecycles.com/businesses](http://www.OaklandRecycles.com/businesses). Recycling service must be verifiable in order to be in compliance with the Ordinance.

Call WMAC at (510) 613-8700, email [csnorthbay@wm.com](mailto:csnorthbay@wm.com) or visit [www.OaklandRecycles.com](http://www.OaklandRecycles.com) to order or increase compost (organics) collection service. Multi-family property owners call California Waste Solutions at (510) OAKLAND (625-5263) or email [OaklandCS@calwaste.com](mailto:OaklandCS@calwaste.com) to order or increase recycling collection service.

More information about the services provided in Oakland can be found at [www.OaklandRecycles.com](http://www.OaklandRecycles.com).

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS 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](http://www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/request-assistance)
- Downloadable posters with information specific to the City of Oakland's services.
  - » [www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/city-of-oakland](http://www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/city-of-oakland)
- Free indoor food scrap bins. Up to \$500 per approved site.
  - » [www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/containers](http://www.RecyclingRulesAC.org/containers)



For additional support materials such as template letters for the annual notification requirement and tips for success, go to the "Support Materials" page at:

[www.RecyclingRulesAC.org](http://www.RecyclingRulesAC.org).

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA) has a goal to reduce waste by ensuring that recyclables and compostables make up less than 10 percent of what goes to landfill by the year 2020.

To help reach that goal, Mandatory Recycling Ordinance 2012-01 went into effect July 1, 2012.