



RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING IS MANDATORY FOR BUSINESSES AND MULTI-FAMILY HOMES

RecyclingRulesAC.org

ACWMA ORDINANCE 2012-01

Attention: Owners and Managers of Businesses and Multi-family Properties in Union City

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority Mandatory Recycling Ordinance 2012-01 has mandated recycling in **Union City** 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.

*Effective January 1, 2018, Phase 2 of the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance will begin and all businesses regardless of garbage service level will be added to the list of accounts affected by the Ordinance. Also, **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). The new County recycling rules build on existing City requirements regarding mandatory weekly collection of solid waste and recycling from all multi-family and commercial customers by the City's exclusive franchise haulers, Republic Services and Tri-CED Community Recycling. State laws AB 341 and AB 1826 also require many multi-family properties and businesses to subscribe to recycling and organics collection service. To order recycling or organics collection service, contact Tri-CED Community Recycling for carts at (510) 429-8030 or Republic Services for bins at (510) 657-3500.*

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 collection 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 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.

- 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 6 months to complete the steps necessary to comply with the new requirements. No fines will be issued before July 1, 2018 to newly covered accounts or for organics violations.

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

WHAT ARE "ORGANICS"?

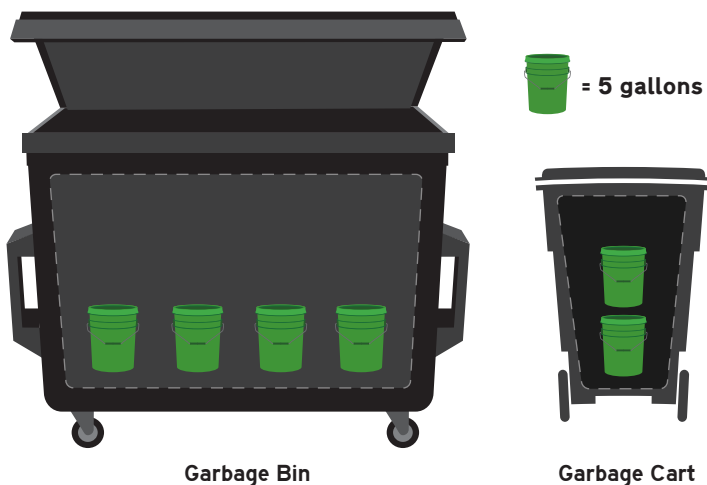
When we refer to "organics," we are not talking about the pesticide-free produce you buy at the grocery store. Organics is a term used to describe compostable materials such as food scraps, compostable paper, and plant debris. These materials, when sent to a composting facility, will become compost—a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



SETTING-UP COLLECTION SERVICE

The City of Union City contracts with Republic Services and Tri-CED Community Recycling for garbage, recycling, and organics (food scraps, food-soiled paper, and plant debris) collection services to residents, businesses, and multi-family properties in the City of Union City. To order recycling or organics collection service, contact Tri-CED Community Recycling for carts at (510) 429-8030 and/or Republic Services for bins at (510) 657-3500.

Additional information about the services provided in Union City can be found at:

www.UnionCity.org/157/Garbage-Recycling-Solid-Waste

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 Union City, 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-union-city
» 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



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.