

MULTI-FAMILY PROPERTIES WITH 5+ UNITS AND BUSINESSES

in Union City must keep their recyclables and compostables separate from the garbage.

ENFORCEMENT EXPANDS July 1, 2018.

ACWMA ORDINANCE 2012-01

Attention Union City Property Owners and Managers:

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA) 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 began and all businesses regardless of garbage service level were added to the list of accounts covered 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.

This letter is to notify you that, beginning July 1, 2018, ACWMA will actively enforce all phases of the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance to determine compliance. Expanded enforcement activities include inspections to determine compliance with the new 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 and multi-family properties with five or more units may be cited and possibly fined for the following violations:

- 1. 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.
- 2.** 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 the recyclables generated on-site.

- 3.** Failure to provide information at least annually to employees, tenants, and contractors describing how to properly use the recycling 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:

- 4. 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.
- 5.** Disposing of recyclable materials in the garbage.
- 6.** Disposing of garbage in the recycling or organics containers.

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

WHAT ARE "ORGANICS"?

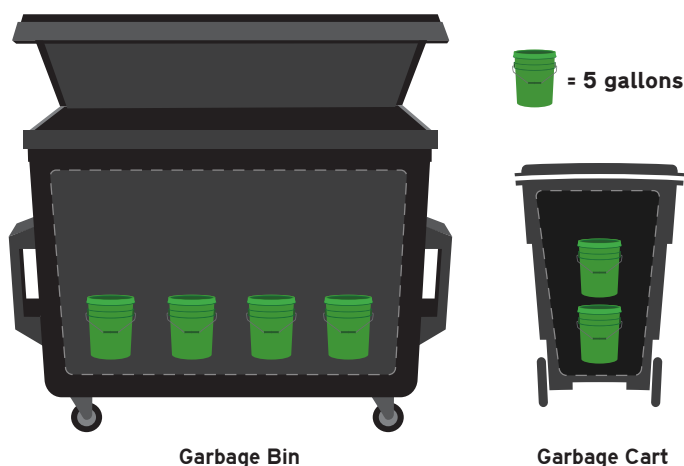
When we refer to "organics," we are not talking about the pesticide-free produce you buy at the grocery store. Organics is a term used to describe compostable materials such as food scraps, food-soiled paper, and plant debris. These materials, when sent to a composting facility, will become compost—a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



SETTING-UP COLLECTION SERVICE

To set-up recycling and/or organics collection service, call Republic Services at (510) 657-3500.

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



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