



# Mandatory Commercial Food Scrap Collection

2018 Update

## Important Notice for Union City Businesses

Food scraps and food soiled paper are the largest single item in our waste stream - making up approximately 35% of what we throw away in Alameda County. Instead of taking up space in the landfill, food scraps can become compost - a valuable resource used by landscapers and farmers.

**Starting in 2018, all Union City businesses generating food scraps, food-soiled paper, plant debris and other organics are required to separate these materials and provide adequate on-site collection per Alameda County's Mandatory Recycling Ordinance.**

### Who must comply?

All businesses that produce "significant quantities" of organics, especially restaurants, grocery stores, bakeries, coffee shops, food processors and distributors, etc.. Please visit [RecyclingRulesAC.org](http://RecyclingRulesAC.org) or call (510) 891-6575 for definition of "significant quantities"

### When do I have to have organics service in place and what's the cost?

The new requirements are effective January 2018; however, potential fines for non-compliance will not be issued before July '18. For info on City-approved organics collection rates, please contact Republic Services or the City's recycling program at 675-5466 or 675-5353.

### Is commercial food scrap collection new in Union City?

Union City's Food Scrap Recycling for Business Program has actually been in place since 2009. Today more than 120 food vendors and other businesses have organics collection service. Large and small restaurants and other establishments are saving money each month by taking advantage of the program's discounted rates for organics collection service. Servicing a green container is 40% cheaper than the cost of garbage service for a same-sized receptacle.



### How do I comply?

- Provide container(s) for collection of organic material at the same or an equally convenient location as garbage.
- Sign-up for organics collection service with the City's franchise hauler Republic Services
- Provide information at least annually to employees describing how to properly use recycling, garbage and organics containers.



### Getting started?

To arrange for organics collection service, available only through City's franchise service provider Republic Services, please call 657.3500 or Union City Recycles at 675-5466/5353. Free onsite waste/recycling assessments are available upon request.



*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. The shared goal is to ensure that less than 10 percent of the waste sent to landfills by 2020 is easily recyclable or compostable material.*