



AB 341: MANDATORY COMMERCIAL RECYCLING LAW

BACKGROUND

According to 2008 California Statewide Waste data (www.calrecycle.ca.gov/WasteChar/WasteStudies.htm), the commercial sector generates nearly ¾'s of the solid waste disposed of in California and most of this commercial waste can be reduced, reused or recycled. Mandatory Commercial Recycling was one of the measures adopted in Assembly Bill 32 by the Air Resources Board (ARB), in the California Global Warming Solutions Act (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006). The law is designed to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from commercial waste. The subsequent new Mandatory Commercial regulation reflects the statutory provisions of AB 341 (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011 [Chesbro, AB 341]).

IS YOUR BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW LAW?

A business, or public entity, that generates more than 4 (four) cubic yards of commercial solid waste (garbage) per week or is a multifamily residential dwelling of 5 (five) units or more, must arrange for recycling services, on and after July 1, 2012.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW LAW:

Businesses can take one or any combination of the following actions in order to divert solid waste from disposal and comply with the new law. The key to remember is: practice the four R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot (compost)) your solid waste. You could:

1. Self-haul your recyclables to a local recycling facility. Look on our website www.RecycleWorks.org for a location near you or,
2. Subscribe to hauler(s) services to provide recycling service at your business or for your tenants,
3. Arrange for the pickup of recyclable materials,
4. Find ways to reduce or reuse the waste you are generating.

Whatever you chose, keep track of and document your efforts, since your local city government waste specialist may ask you to provide records of your waste reduction activities.

BE SURE TO EDUCATE YOUR EMPLOYEES

Employees are key to a successful business recycling program. Please make sure your employees know which materials can be recycled and where to place them for temporary storage and ultimate collection.

WHAT ARE RECYCLABLE MATERIALS THAT ARE GENERATED AT A BUSINESS:

- Paper, cardboard, and paperboard items
- Glass and plastic bottles
- Aluminum and metal cans
- Food waste which can be recycled via composting (if available in your area).

Your garbage company can help you set up a recycling program at your business. To locate your local garbage company in San Mateo County visit our website www.recycleworks.org/resident/map.html or call us at 1 (888) 442-2666 for the information.

INFORMATION FOR APARTMENT OWNERS-MANAGERS

It is important that both apartment managers and tenants understand the requirements to recycle, and know which materials can be recycled and where to place them for collection.

- State law requires apartment owners to offer recycling services to residents. Apartment owners may require tenants to recycle.
- Consider including recycling requirements in tenant leases.
- Information about multi-family recycling is available from the California Apartment Association at www.caanet.org/MultifamilyRecycling.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT AB 341

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/Recycling/FAQ.htm>

LEARN ABOUT A VARIETY OF WAYS TO INCREASE RECYCLING IN YOUR BUSINESS:

<http://recycleworks.org/business/index.html>

LOCAL COLLECTION HAULERS

See the reverse side of this sheet to find a collection hauler. Contact them directly for information on services and rates.

