



To: City of Garden Grove, Public Works Department

Date: January 4, 2016

Re: AB 1826 Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling

This memo provides a basic implementation plan for the City's Commercial Organics Recycling Program. Effective April 1, 2016, AB 1826 will require businesses to separate their food scraps and yard trimmings for composting or anaerobic digestion. The recycling requirements will be phased in over several years and will help the State meet its goal to recycle 75 percent of its waste by 2020. Businesses must arrange for recycling services for the following types of organic waste: food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper.

- Multifamily complexes of 5 units or more must arrange for recycling services for the same material with the exception of food waste and food-soiled paper.

[Tiered implementation schedule](#)

The new organic recycling requirements will be phased in over several years and will help the state meet its goal to recycle 75 percent of its waste by 2020.

- **January 1, 2016** - On and after this date, the City will have a commercial food waste program, as well as a green waste program. The City will identify generators and provide outreach based on the threshold set forth by CalRecycle.
- **April 1, 2016** - Businesses that generate 8 cubic yards of organic waste per week shall arrange for organic waste recycling services.
- **January 1, 2017** - Businesses that generate 4 cubic yards of organic waste per week shall arrange for organic waste recycling services.
- **August 1, 2017** and ongoing - The City will include information about implementation and progress in its annual report submitted to CalRecycle.
- **Fall 2018** - After receipt of the 2017 annual reports submitted on August 1, 2018, CalRecycle shall conduct its formal review of those jurisdictions that are on a two-year review cycle.
- **January 1, 2019** - Businesses that generate 4 cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week shall arrange for organic waste recycling services.

- **January 1, 2020** - On or after January 1, 2020, if CalRecycle determines that the statewide disposal of organic waste has not been reduced by 50 percent of the level of disposal in 2014, the organic recycling requirements on businesses will expand to cover businesses that generate 2 cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week. Additionally, certain exemptions may no longer be available if the 2020 target is not met.
- **Fall 2020** - After receipt of the 2019 annual reports submitted on August 1, 2020, CalRecycle shall conduct its formal review of all jurisdictions. Note: CalRecycle shall continue to conduct the two and four-year reviews after this cycle.

Identifying generators

In preparation for phase one of the implementations, the City’s hauler qualified generators using the Service Level Generation Based Tool.

The total weekly volume was determined by using the size of the containers and frequency of the pickup.* For example, if a restaurant has the following subscription level its total weekly volume = (2x4) + (2x2) + (2x2) = 16 cubic yard/week

- Trash: one 2 cubic yard bin picked up 4 times/week
- Recycling: one 2 cubic yard bin picked up 2 times/week
- Green waste: one 2 cubic yard bin picked up 2 times/week

After calculating the total weekly volume, the list was sorted by descending order and the minimum service level was applied using 18 cubic yards, based on the estimated commercial organic waste generation ratio (36%)* from the 2014 Waste Characterization Study. *This includes all organic materials not just the materials defined in AB1826.

After filtering the data by weekly service level the hauler further refined the list of generators based on its knowledge of the businesses waste materials composition. Businesses that do not generate 8 cubic yards or more of organics per week were reclassified.

Commercial Customers	Less than 18 Yards of Waste Per Week	Multifamily (Green Waste)	18 Plus Yards of Waste Per Week	Not Qualified Based on Hauler’s Knowledge of Materials	Possibly Qualified for Phase I Food Waste Program (8 C.Y. Organics)
892	191	104	242	67	104

The commercial business generator list shall be used to target outreach, education and monitoring activities. The City and its hauler will encourage business and multifamily generators to commit to reducing food and green waste by following the source reduction hierarchy; reduce, food rescue and recycle. Businesses that are diverting food and green waste in some other manner such as back hauling will be asked to report all efforts to reducing organic waste to the franchise hauler. Once identified these businesses may be reclassified as meeting the threshold.

Green waste

The City will continue to offer its existing green waste collection program to all qualifying businesses and multifamily complexes with 5 or more units. The green waste collection program includes organic materials generated from landscapes or gardens, pruning waste and nonhazardous wood waste. The green waste collection program does not include large stumps or branches in bundles exceeding eighteen (18) inches in diameter or four (4) feet in length.

Food waste

A new source separated food waste collection program will be added to the menu of services currently offered by the City's franchise hauler. This service will become available to businesses in accordance to the tiered implementation schedule beginning in April 2016.

The cost of the new food waste collection program including funding for containers, collection vehicles, collection equipment, processing, public education, reporting, advertising, labor, and principal and interest payments, regulatory and other relevant cost program will be determined. The City will incorporate the cost of the commercial mandatory organics collection program into the rate schedule. Regardless if the business participates in the food waste recycling program, the rate charged will be the rate specified in the Exhibit for commercial premises.

- Once businesses have been notified, they may contact the hauler to subscribe to the food waste program.
- Containers specifically designated for source separated food waste will be provided by the hauler once a business subscribes to the food waste collection program.
- A "how-to" brochure will be provided to help businesses get started.
- Participants in the food waste collection program will be encouraged to bag food waste to reduce odors and to clean their bin(s) at least once a week.
- Signs and posters will be available in English and Spanish to help increase participation.
- Container decals will include English/Spanish along with photos illustrating which foods are acceptable and which are not acceptable.

Customers will be instructed to monitor the purity of materials to minimize contamination. Unfortunately, it only takes a fork or a little bleach to contaminate an entire load causing the entire load of food waste to be rejected by the processor and diverted to the landfill. If a driver(s) deems a load to be contaminated, the customer will be responsible for correcting the issue(s) before the container can be serviced.

Green waste and food waste are collected in separate trucks and undergo very different post-collection processes; therefore, they cannot be mixed or combined inside the same container. Customers must indicate the type(s) of materials when contacting the hauler to subscribe. The food waste program is not available to multifamily complexes during phase one.

Acceptable items include:

·Fruit	·Vegetables	·Cheese	·Meat
·Bones	·Poultry	·Seafood	·Coffee
·Bread	·Rice	·Pasta	·Eggs
·Tea Bags	·Coffee Filters		

Unacceptable items include:

·Glass/Plastic	·Tin/Metal	· Containers/Lids	·Cleaning Supplies
·Latex Gloves	·Chemicals	·Straws	·Utensils

Education and Outreach

- Beginning in January, 2016 periodic messages about AB1826 will appear on the invoices.
- Prior to April 1, 2016, a notification will be mailed to commercial and multifamily generators who meet the threshold according to the implementation schedule.
- The City and its hauler will provide public education, news media, social media and other such press releases that become necessary to keep participants informed about the program.
- An online survey will be available to collect data about food recovery efforts and self-hauling (green waste only).
- Waste assessments are available to help determine the right level of service.
- The City and the hauler will provide information regarding end use food providers to make the most of the food recovery, including links to food recovery programs.
- Republic Services continues to work with its partners to develop new infrastructure in Orange County for anaerobic digestion, which may become a more viable solution as implementation ramps up.

Milestones Master Implementation Plan 2015 - 2016			
December 2015	Develop and finalize the Implementation Plan	In Progress	Republic/City
December 2015	Identify generators	In Progress	Republic
January 2016	Route wet/dry organics collection truck	Completed	Republic
January 2016	Present change in the law and approve rate	Not Started	City
January 2016	Purchase equipment and containers	Not Started	Republic
February 2016	Notify customers	Not Started	Republic
March 2016	Sign-up customers, deliver containers	Not Started	Republic
March 2016	Education and outreach	In Progress	City/Republic
April 1, 2016	Begin food waste program	Not Started	Republic

Reporting

Beginning August 1, 2017 the City will report participation levels as part of its annual report to CalRecycle using the following format:

- Customer name
- Physical address
- Size of container(s) trash, recycling and organics in cubic yards
- Frequency of pickup

Exemptions

Exemptions will be limited based upon the criteria established by CalRecycle.