

Clinical Suite



Hospitality & Facilities with Beds

Procurement and Waste Management for Overnight Facilities

Effective July 1, 2012, the State's Mandatory Commercial Recycling law Assembly Bill 341 (AB 341) established mandatory commercial recycling and a Statewide goal to reduce, recycle or compost a minimum of 75% of the solid waste generated by 2020 and annually thereafter. Additionally, AB 341 requires all businesses, including County facilities, that generate 4 cubic yards or more of solid waste per week to arrange for recycling services.

Overnight facilities typically use single use materials due to the nature of operations. Facilities such as jails, hospitals, and rehabilitation centers are likely to procure disposable items, such as slippers/shoes and soaps and lotions in single use containers.

Preparation of systems to track inventory, wash and sanitize, store and refill reusable items and to repurpose them when worn out is key when using reusable items. Time and money spent in preparation to handle reusable items is more sustainable due to their reduced chance of being littered compared to single use items and helps consumers avoid contaminating collection bins for recyclables due to inconsistent rules on recycling in different public spaces and locations.



In addition to recycling, California passed laws requiring donation of edible food and diversion of organic waste, such as landscape debris, food and food-soiled paper. As of January 1, 2020, California's Mandatory Organic Waste Recycling Law (AB 1826) requires all businesses that generate 2 cubic yards or more of solid waste per week to recycle organic waste.

Senate Bill 1383 regulations takes effect on January 1, 2022, requiring all County facilities to recycle their organic waste. Additionally, the State Law requires health facilities with at least 100 beds and on-site food facility to establish a program to donate surplus food

by having a formal agreement with a food recovery organization by January 2, 2024 or face penalties.

The hospitality sector generates a significant amount of organic waste from meal preparation, dining and landscaping. County facilities such as hospitals, jails, live-in, and other overnight facilities can also reduce and divert waste from the landfill. Savings may be realized through purchasing and disposal while complying with state mandates by implementing waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.

Tips, Resources, and Assistance



Provide reusable foodware such as plates, cups and silverware in dining areas with washable napkins and tablecloths.



Work with suppliers to deliver food and other goods in reusable containers that they take back.



Watch this webinar on food recovery in the hospitality sector to learn best practices for recovering edible food: epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-management-smm-web-academy-webinar-innovative-collaborations-hospitality



Look for used durable goods such as electronics and construction materials through the Los Angeles County Materials Exchange to reduce purchasing needs. Find more information at the following website: pw.lacounty.gov/epd/lacomax/



Bid on surplus materials through the Los Angeles County Internal Services Department for reused office materials and supplies. Bid at the following website: isd.co.la.ca.us/surplus/scripts/surSale.cfm or call 323-267-2467 for more information.



Explore several facility waste reduction and recycling strategies at CalRecycle's webpage for hotels and restaurants: calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/food/restaurants



Find more information on available programs at: CleanLA.com or call 1(888) CLEAN LA.



Source: Bye Bye Mattress 2017 California Report



Source: Natural Resources Defense Council



Case Studies and Best Practices

Mattress Recycling and Procurement

Mattresses are bulky and take up a large amount of space in trash collection containers and landfills. In 2013, the Mattress Recycling Council began offering several resources to assist facilities in California with mattress recycling. To find such programs for your facility, visit The Mattress Recycling Council website at MattressRecyclingCouncil.org.

Recycling is the preferred method to increase diversion of waste mattresses. Facilities should develop a plan for storage and management of used mattresses. At Augustus Hawkins Rehabilitation Center, used mattresses are collected and placed in a central location with adequate space to allow storage of several units. A designated individual contacts the mattress collection company once sufficient units have accumulated. The collection company provides a receipt that details the quantity of units collected.

To ensure proper recycling, designate a storage area or room to place old and worn mattresses that is dry and pest free. This will prevent the mattress from molding or becoming infested. In addition to recycling mattresses, procurement of more sustainable mattresses (washable) can save facilities time and money over frequent purchases and disposal of non-washable mattresses. Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland, Oregon replaced nearly all mattresses with reusable waterproof mattresses.

The new mattresses paid for themselves in one year by reducing purchasing and disposal costs, while increasing diversion.



Donate and Re-purpose Materials

Facilities with patients and residents generate many items that are ideal for waste reduction and reuse. Bed linens, gowns, uniforms, slippers, and toiletries are just a sampling of the items in the supply chain that can be assessed for improvements in purchasing and disposal practices.



Footwear at detention facilities can wear rapidly, and when one shoe becomes unusable, both must be replaced. Theo Lacy Facility, in Orange, California began using a more durable uni-foot sandal, which allowed for sandals to be replaced individually. Contact your footwear supplier for uni-foot options and/or footwear that is more durable and long-lasting. The facility also created the "Jails to Tails" program, which turns discarded inmate sheets and clothing into dog beds for the Orange County Animal Care.

Another outlet for materials may be as close as the nearest soup kitchen. Midnight Mission in downtown Los Angeles receives partially consumed, wholly usable toiletries left in guestrooms and redistributes them to those they serve. Contact local nonprofits near your facility to learn what items are acceptable. Donating unused materials can reduce disposal costs and increase diversion while maintaining resources in the local community.



Best Practices

Eliminate Disposable Diapers -

Kaiser Permanente's Northwest Region switched from disposable to cloth diapers. Any hospital making this change needs to follow procedures for infection control and skin care. Kaiser found there was no change in costs or savings; it was a cost neutral change. There was no adverse effect on patient or staff safety and the amount of solid waste going to landfills decreased.

Refurbish Linens -

McPherson Hospital in Michigan successfully reduces waste with the help of four volunteers who donate their sewing skills one day a week. The volunteers repair and refurbish a number of linen and bedding items. Bedsheets are made into stretcher sheets; old surgical drapes are converted into biopsy cloths and mayo towels (similar to hand cloths). Gown ties are repaired and blankets, mattress pads, and quilts are converted into potholders. Find out more here: css.umich.edu/sites/default/files/css_doc/CSS91-05.pdf

Use Reusable Isolation Gowns - Reusable gowns can reduce waste by 80% and can cost up to 50% less than disposables. United Hospital Services (UHS) in Indianapolis persuaded the

30-plus hospitals to keep reusable isolation gowns rather than purchasing disposables. The result? An annual savings of at least \$1.4 million. The independent laundry cooperative serving the hospitals processes nearly 20,000 isolation gowns a day, six days a week, 52 weeks a year. That equates to nearly six million isolation gowns a year. Learn more here: sustainabilityroadmap.org/pims/pdfs/pim247_How_to_Reduce_Waste_NJenkins.pdf

Replace Single Use Items - Encourage environmental practices in guest and patient rooms by eliminating single use products.

- Replace single use shampoo, soap, lotion, and guest supplies with wall-mounted bulk dispensers.
- Install water dispensers in centralized locations for guests to refill reusable water bottles or supply large water dispensers in guest/patient rooms.
- Provide patients with washable linen garment bags to hold their personal belongings during admission rather than with plastic bags.

- In patient rooms use bed pans, water pitchers, bed pads, and gowns that can be reused and sanitized.

Prioritize the replacement of materials that are most prevalent in the waste stream.

Implement Recycling - Recycling is a simple step that allows patients, visitors, inmates, and live-in guests to participate in environmental practices. Place a small recycling bin alongside the trash can in guest rooms. Place larger recycling bins in lobbies, hallways, near doors and in waiting areas. Common areas are a useful place to allow guests and residents to recycle in addition to in-room bins. In areas where guests congregate, such as laundry facilities or inside elevators, consider adding information about your program. Place in-room education and outreach, labeling and signage near all recycling bins and trash cans. Signage helps guests understand your practices and how to participate.