

# MANDATORY ORGANICS RECYCLING FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

## WHAT IS ORGANIC WASTE?

FOOD WASTE



GREEN WASTE



FOOD-SOILED PAPER



## WHY RECYCLE ORGANIC WASTE?

REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE



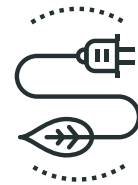
Composting 25% of the Unincorporated County's wasted food annually is equivalent to removing the pollution from 5000 cars.<sup>1</sup>

DIVERT LANDFILL WASTE



Unincorporated areas dispose of 128,000 tons of food waste per year.<sup>2</sup>

PRODUCE CLEAN ENERGY



Food waste can be converted to clean energy through the process of anaerobic digestion.

## HOW TO RECYCLE ORGANIC WASTE

IDENTIFY GENERATION



Identify where organics are generated:

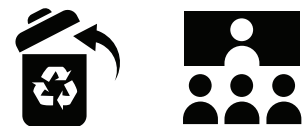
- Cafeteria kitchen food prep
- Cafeteria dining area
- Lunch rooms
- Employee workstations
- Landscaping

CONTACT YOUR HAULER



- Arrange for your waste hauler to conduct a site visit and make specific recommendations for your facility
- Find out what type of organic waste collection programs your hauler has available
- Request separate food waste and/or green waste containers from your hauler

IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM



- Contact Public Works for assistance
- Distribute organic waste collection bins where organic waste is generated
- Post signage and distribute educational materials to all employees

# MANDATORY ORGANICS RECYCLING (AB 1826)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 1826?

AB 1826 is a commercial organic waste recycling law, signed in 2014. The bill requires businesses (including government facilities) and multifamily residences of five or more units to arrange for organic waste recycling services depending on the amount of waste they generate each week. Currently, AB 1826 affects County facilities that produce over four cubic yards of organic waste each week. However, effective January 1, 2019, all County facilities generating over four cubic yards of commercial solid waste each week must comply with AB 1826.

### WHAT IS CONSIDERED ORGANIC WASTE?

Food scraps, green waste (landscape and pruning waste), nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste (paper products mixed in with food scraps).

### WHAT ARE THE BASICS OF SETTING UP AN ORGANICS RECYCLING PROGRAM?

#### Step 1

- Identify where organics are generated and disposed.
  - Kitchen food prep areas
  - Dining area trash bins
  - Monitor break rooms, lunch rooms, and trash bins
  - Identify if green waste is being disposed in on-site waste containers

#### Step 2

- Place organics recycling bins throughout the facility or work areas. Public Works may be able to provide a limited number of bins to assist you in beginning to implement your organics recycling program.
- Provide educational materials and program information to employees, including:
  - Ongoing reminders to promote the program
  - Program information in new-hire training

#### Step 3

- Implement organics collection services with your department's solid waste collection provider and staff.
- Monitor the program regularly.

For additional information, contact Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar at [kvazifdar@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:kvazifdar@dpw.lacounty.gov) or at (626) 458-3514 to request assistance.

### ARE THERE REQUIREMENTS FOR LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS THAT HANDLE GREEN WASTE?

All landscape contracts should require appropriate recycling of all landscaping materials. Public Works can provide sample contract language. To comply with AB 1826, a facility must recycle all organic wastes it produces.

### WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO HELP COUNTY FACILITIES COMPLY?

Public Works and Internal Services Department (ISD) are ready to assist you in subscribing to organic waste collection services. On April 1, 2018, new waste hauling agreements were established with four waste haulers: Athens Services, Southland Disposal, Universal Waste Systems, and USA Waste. These contracts include organic waste collection for food waste and green waste. For more information, please contact Carla Leung of ISD at (323) 267-2209 or Ted Lo of ISD at (323) 267-2271.

- Before implementing an organic waste collection program at your facility, please contact your waste hauler to find out their requirements for separating food waste and green waste from other trash for collection. Some haulers may accept food waste only, while other haulers may accept food waste mixed with food-soiled paper products such as napkins, compostable food containers, and compostable utensils. Some haulers may accept green waste only but other haulers may accept green waste mixed in with food waste or with trash.
- If you do not contract through ISD for organic waste recycling service or if your current waste hauler does not provide organic waste recycling, you may subscribe to services with any of LA County's approved non-exclusive commercial franchise waste haulers. For a list of non-exclusive commercial franchise waste haulers, visit <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/sbr/businesses-hauler-services.aspx>

1 Calculation computed using the U.S EPA Waste Reduction Model calculator, estimating a reduction of 32,000 tons of food waste annually. U.S. EPA, Waste Reduction Model, version 14, with data sources obtained from: <https://www.epa.gov/warm/waste-reduction-model-warm-material-descriptions-and-data-sources>

2 Data obtained from Table 1: Waste Characterization for County Unincorporated Communities, 2013 of the Los Angeles County Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future.