

Mandatory Recycling for Businesses

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What's the bottom line?



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It could save you money.



County of Santa Barbara
Public Works Department
Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division
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FACT: The more materials your business recycles, the less trash it produces.

FACT: Recycling service costs less than trash service.



BOTTOM LINE: Recycling could save you money by reducing your waste disposal costs.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THE COUNTY'S MANDATORY RECYCLING PROGRAM FOR BUSINESSES

NOTICE

Exemption Protocol:

If a business owner wants to request a waiver or exemption, then the owner must obtain and complete a form and provide documentation that supports the request. After the County or the waste hauler conducts an on-site visit, the County will issue a Notice of Determination on whether or not to grant the waiver or exemption.

Compliance and Enforcement:

If a business owner refuses to recycle or has unacceptably high levels of contamination (more than 25% trash) in the company's recycling containers, a non-compliance fee of 20% of the trash bill will be imposed. *(Please note: The service provider's drivers and/or County staff will determine the level of contamination.)*

BACKGROUND

Since September 2003, the County of Santa Barbara has had a very successful mandatory recycling program for businesses in the **unincorporated areas** of Santa Barbara County. The vast majority of businesses have established a recycling program that has enabled them to save money by reducing their disposal costs. How? By recycling more, their trash volume is reduced. And recycling service costs less than trash service. If you and your employees recycle more and waste less, you could save money every month. And a decrease in expenses can be as beneficial as an increase in revenue. In addition, recycling saves natural resources and energy, reduces air and water pollution, and reduces our community's reliance on landfills.

STATEWIDE MANDATORY COMMERCIAL RECYCLING REGULATION

Through Assembly Bill 341 (AB 341), the State of California has established a goal to divert at least 75% of the State's waste by 2020. To help achieve this goal, businesses statewide that generate four cubic yards or more of solid waste per week are now required to establish a recycling program. To learn more about AB 341, please visit the website of the state agency overseeing its implementation, CalRecycle: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Climate/Recycling/default.htm>

IT'S EASY TO START RECYCLING

If you have not started a recycling program, start one now and join other businesses that are recycling. The easiest way to comply with the County's mandatory business recycling program is to call your waste hauling company. They'll work with you to determine the level of recycling service that's just right for your business. (Every business has unique waste disposal needs.)

Your waste hauler will then provide the recycling containers that you need. After four to six weeks, contact your waste hauler to have your trash service adjusted, assuming your trash volume is reduced. Charges will depend on the levels of recycling and trash service you both agree upon. Generally, the more materials you recycle, the more money you and your company can save.

Another option is to share a recycling container with a nearby business. Contact that business to obtain its approval and then notify your waste hauler and the County about this arrangement. Upon verification of this arrangement, the County will then give its approval.

You also have the option of self-hauling your recyclable materials to drop-off facilities. To find the one closest to you, call us at **(805) 882-3616** or visit our recycling website, www.LessIsMore.org.



Here's What's Recyclable

- Aluminum foil and pie plates (must be clean)
- Cardboard
- Glass containers
- Metal cans
- Mixed paper, including magazines, envelopes, and junk mail
- Newspapers
- Paperboard e.g. cereal and tissue boxes
- Plastic film e.g. bags, bubble wrap, and shrink wrap (**New materials now accepted!**)
- Pots and pans and
- Hard plastics #1 through #7 (but no Styrofoam)

Tips to Reduce Waste and Save Money

To enhance your recycling efforts, have your company adopt the philosophy of "**Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.**"

FOR EXAMPLE:

- Reuse bags, containers, and other items.
- Donate discarded electronic equipment.
- Request that your suppliers deliver their products to you without excess packaging.
- Reuse or donate packaging materials such as foam board, bubble wrap, and "popcorn" to local packaging stores. They'll appreciate it. And so will Mother Nature.
- Purchase products containing recycled-content to support companies that make such products and those markets.

Don't let our waste waste our environment.
Recycle.

