

BIN THINKING

COMMERCIAL

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

CALRECYCLE AB 341 & AB 1826 COMPLIANCE DIRECTIVE

In May 2022, CalRecycle issued a state-wide directive requiring jurisdictions to implement a plan to achieve full compliance with two recycling laws: Assembly Bill 341 (AB 341) and Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826).

In response to the State's directive, the City of Vacaville has begun implementing automatic deployment of recycling programs to covered generators. Impacted businesses were notified by mail and by phone of the upcoming changes to their waste service.

Here's what businesses need to know about these laws:



AB 341

- › **What it is:** Assembly Bill 341 requires all businesses that generate 4 cubic yards or more of trash per week to have a recycling program in place for traditional recyclables, including paper, plastic, metal, and glass. The law also requires multifamily dwellings with 5 or more units to provide recycling service for residents, regardless of weekly waste generation.
- › **Requirements:** In order to meet the requirements of AB 341, covered generators must subscribe to a mixed recycling service. Recology Vacaville Solano offers free mixed recycling services for commercial customers. To enroll in these services, call Recology Vacaville Solano at (707) 448-2945.

AB 1826

- › **What it is:** Assembly Bill 1826 requires businesses that generate 2 cubic yards or more of total solid waste (includes trash and recycling) to recycle organic waste. This requirement also applies to multifamily complexes with 5 or more units.

Organic waste includes food waste such as fruit and vegetable scraps, meat & poultry, fish, shellfish, bones, eggs, rice, pasta, and grains. Also included is food-soiled paper such as napkins, paper towels, uncoated paper plates, wood chopsticks and coffee stirrers, and greasy pizza boxes.
- › **Requirements:** In order to meet the requirements of AB 1826, covered generators must subscribe to an organics recycling service. Recology

Vacaville Solano offers several service options to meet the needs of every business. To enroll in organics recycling service, call Recology Vacaville Solano at (707) 448-2945.

- › **Exemption information:** The City of Vacaville has developed a Small Quantity Generator Exemption Program for AB 1826-covered generators that produce less than ½ cubic yard of organic waste each week. If you believe your business qualifies as a Small Quantity Generator, visit www.vacavillerecycling.com to complete a Waste Assessment Form, or email it to recycling@cityofvacaville.com.

Please note, per State law, exemptions for AB 341 – Mandatory Commercial Recycling are not available.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about these laws and what is required for your business, please contact the City of Vacaville Solid Waste & Recycling Office at (707) 469-6507 or email us at recycling@cityofvacaville.com.

More information is also available on CalRecycle's website: <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/nav/regulatedbusiness/>



RECYCLING TIPS: BLUE CART BASICS

- ✓ **DO** rinse recyclable containers clean.
- ✓ **DO** breakdown and fold large cardboard boxes.
- ✓ **DO** skip the plastic bags. Place your recyclables directly in your blue cart.
- ✓ **DO** buy materials made from post-consumer recycled materials—you'll help create markets for your recyclables!
- ✓ **DO** reduce and reuse first! Less waste is always best.
- ✗ **DON'T** place plastic bags in your blue cart, including trash bags, shopping bags, and produce bags.
- ✗ **DON'T** place food-soiled materials in your blue cart – only empty, clean, and dry items.
- ✗ **DON'T** place anything smaller than a business card in your blue cart.
- ✗ **DON'T** guess. If you aren't sure if something is recyclable, visit www.WhatBin.com to find out.

FOCUS ON THE FIVE:

- 1 Paper
- 2 Flattened Cardboard
- 3 Plastic Bottles & Containers (#'s 1-7)*
- 4 Metal Food & Beverage Cans
- 5 Glass Bottles & Jars



Organic Waste in the Office

Food waste isn't limited to restaurants, cafeterias, and other food institutions. The truth is, businesses of all kinds generate a surprising amount of organic waste. Office buildings may not seem likely to produce organic waste, however, of the 4.4 pounds of waste an average office worker generates each day, nearly 30 percent is food waste. Taking a deeper look into the types of materials your office discards can uncover commonly overlooked opportunities to recycle more and waste less. Less waste means less money spent on your service bill, and you'll be doing your part to help reduce your business's environmental footprint.

Food Soiled Paper

- Coffee filters
- Paper bags
- Napkins, tissues, & paper towels
- Paper cups, hot sleeves, plates and take-out boxes or containers (without a plastic liner).

Food Scraps

- Coffee grounds, tea & tea bags
- Leftovers and spoiled food
- Bread, grains & pasta
- Fruit (puts, shells, & peels too)
- Vegetables
- Meat and bones
- Seafood
- Eggs and eggshells

Plants

- Flowers and floral trimmings
- Leaves
- Grasses and weeds from landscaping

Other

- Shredded paper
- Wooden chop sticks & coffee stir sticks

Still not sure if an organics recycling program is a good fit for your business?

**Call Recology Vacaville Solano at
(707) 448-2945
to schedule a
FREE waste assessment.**

