

FOOD WASTE RECYCLING IS NOW MANDATORY AT YOUR BUSINESS

THE LAW*

Starting July 1, 2021, all businesses and commercial properties are required to separate organic material from their garbage for recycling. Organic material includes food waste, food-soiled paper, green waste/landscaping trimmings and “clean wood” (no paint, no stain, etc.).



Does this apply to my business?

This law applies to **ALL business types**, not just those that sell food.

This includes office buildings, retail stores, hospitals, restaurants, non-profits, hotels, repair shops, event venues, government offices, and schools, etc.

How do I comply?

Contact your waste hauler to add organic material recycling services and start an organic recycling program in your workplace. Organics recycling services are mandatory. If you do not comply by July 1, 2021, your waste hauler will provide advance notice before delivering an organic recycling bin and starting collection services.

Organic Collection Tips

Organic material can be collected throughout the workplace. Use a separate container for food waste, coffee grounds, tea bags and food-soiled paper including napkins and paper towels.

- Line counter containers with compostable bags or paper towels to reduce mess.
- Empty counter containers daily into your hauler provided organics bin to reduce odors.
- If you have janitorial services who clean your business, request they also empty organics collection containers daily and keep them separate.
- Educate employees on what items are acceptable in the organics containers.

Check with your waste hauler or use resources at WasteRightSac.com.

Example of required three waste containers





What should go into your organics bin?

Green Waste

Grass clippings, small branches, leaves, cut flowers, garden trimmings, wood chips and clean wood (no paint, no stain, etc.)



Food Waste

Cooked and raw food waste, such as uneaten vegetables, fruits, meats, dairy, bones, baked goods, etc.



Food-Soiled Paper

Used napkins, paper cups, coffee filters, greasy pizza boxes, used paper plates, etc.



Why Organics?

Methane gas is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. The breakdown of organic material in landfills is one of the largest contributors to global warming.

Recycling organic material also saves space in landfills and brings necessary nutrients back to the soil through compost.



Taking action by recycling organic material can significantly reduce global warming gases and can reduce the impacts of climate change in our lifetime!

What if I don't generate enough organic material or don't have space for an additional bin?

Visit **WasteRightSac.com** to learn more about waivers. If your business generates minimal amounts of organic material per week, you may qualify for an organic material recycling waiver. These waivers are not permitted for businesses that sell or produce food. If your business site lacks adequate space for an organic material container, you may qualify for a physical space waiver. Supporting documents will be required as evidence that your business does not have space for a 64-gallon cart, one of the smallest carts available, approximately 25" wide x 32" deep x 42" high.

Are there other options to recycle my organic material and still comply with the law?

You can either:

Self-haul – Take your organic material to a local facility yourself.

Back-haul – Your business takes the organic materials back to a central or corporate location.

Contract with a third-party recycler – An organic material recycler, not a franchised hauler, collects and recycles your organic material. Franchised haulers are those that have permits to collect garbage in the City or County of Sacramento. A list of franchised haulers is available at **WasteRightSac.com**.

For more frequently asked questions visit **WasteRightSac.com**.