



AB 1826 MANDATORY ORGANICS RECYCLING

Implementation Dates and Thresholds

The law allows for an implementation and compliance transition phase. The allotted time is based on the amount and type of waste the business produces on a weekly basis. Full implementation is set for 2019. If waste reduction targets are not met in 2020, then the law triggers an increase scope for the affected businesses. The implementation schedule is as follows:

January 1, 2016: The City of Irwindale must implement an AB 1826 Education, Outreach and Monitoring Campaign informing businesses on how to recycle organics and waste in the city.

April 1, 2016: Businesses that generate eight (8) cubic yards of organic waste per week, must arrange for organic waste recycling services.

January 1, 2017: Businesses that generate four (4) cubic yards of organic waste per week, must arrange for organic waste recycling services.

January 1, 2019: Businesses that generate four (4) cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week must arrange for organic waste recycling services.

Fall 2020: CalRecycle will conduct a review of all jurisdictions to verify if waste reduction targets have been met.

Summer/Fall 2021: If it is determined that statewide organics recycling has not been reduced by 50 percent of the level of disposal listed in 2014, then the organic recycling requirements will expand to cover businesses that generate two cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week. Previously approved exemptions may no longer be available if this target is not met.

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Background and Overview

In October of 2014 Governor Brown signed [AB 1826 Chesbro \(Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014\)](#), requiring businesses to recycle their organic waste on and after April 1, 2016, depending on the amount of waste they generate per week. Organic waste (also referred to as organics throughout this resource) means food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste.

Key Elements of the Law for Businesses. A business that meets the waste generation threshold must engage in one of the following organic recycling activities:

- Source separate organic waste from other waste and participate in a waste recycling service that includes collection and recycling of organic waste.
- Recycle its organic waste on site, or self-haul its organic waste off site for recycling.
- Subscribe to an organic waste recycling service that may include mixed waste processing that specifically recycles organic waste.

Note: A business generating organic waste shall arrange for the recycling services in a manner that is consistent with state and local laws and requirements, including a local ordinance or local jurisdiction's franchise agreement, applicable to the collection, handling, or recycling of solid and organic waste.

Why Organics? Mandatory recycling of organic waste is the next step toward achieving California's aggressive recycling and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission goals. California disposes approximately 30 million tons of waste in landfills each year, of which some 30 percent could be used for compost or mulch. Organic waste such as green materials and food materials are recyclable through composting and mulching, and through anaerobic digestion, which can produce renewable energy. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from the decomposition of organic wastes in landfills have been identified as a significant source of emissions contributing to global climate change.

For more information on AB 1826, please visit CalRecycle's Web Site at www.calrecycle.ca.gov.