

STATE COMPLIANCE DIRECTIVE: **AB 341 & AB 1826**

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. As of August 2022, mixed recycling services were rolled out to all AB 341-covered generators. Remaining businesses subject to AB 1826 will receive their green organics carts this fall.

Here's what businesses need to know:

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 20 gallons of organic waste each week (or 10 gallons of organic waste per week if total solid waste collection is less than two cubic yards per 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/>

HOW TO RUN A GREEN BUSINESS

Today's business owners are becoming increasingly aware of their impact on the planet and the importance of implementing sustainable business practices that can help ease the burden on our resources. Whether you're new to sustainability or are already committed to running an eco-friendly business but would like to take it a step further, here are some tips on ways to shrink your footprint and grow your green business strategy:

Focus on packaging: About 50% of the average American's daily waste consists of packaging materials. Take a look at your current packaging and determine if there are ways you can use less material, switch to packaging made with as much recycled and post-consumer content as possible, and be sure your customers know how to dispose of their packaging in a responsible way.

Transition to eco-friendly supplies and suppliers.

One of the easiest changes you can make is to look at your business's supplies and where you purchase them. Everything from office paper to breakroom supplies can have an impact on your goals. First, partner with suppliers that employ eco-friendly practices. Not only will you be supporting other green businesses, but it will ensure you have the greatest selection of sustainable products to choose from. Other steps you might take include implementing double-sided printing as a default, replacing disposable goods with reusable items, and looking for ways to make your disposable and/or single use items more eco-friendly. Look for recycled content in what you buy and purchase items that are easy to recycle.

Help your team go green.

Getting your team on board with your greening goals is critical to the success of your sustainability program. Adoption of waste reduction practices, providing the tools to encourage proper recycling, training on sorting of recyclables, and responsible use of resources are important first steps to ensure your goals are being met at all times.

Waste management practices:

Businesses generate a lot of waste. Take a look at your waste stream to determine if source reduction is feasible or look for areas of opportunity to increase recycling. Diverting recyclables from the trash can help reduce your impact on the environment, and even help you save money on your service bill by reducing the size or frequency of your trash collection. If you're not sure where to start, Recology Vacaville Solano's Waste Zero Team can help. Call (707) 448-2945 to schedule a FREE Business Waste Assessment today!

CUSTOMER ACCESS TO RECYCLING

As required by Assembly Bill 827 and Senate Bill 1383, commercial businesses must provide labeled recycling bins and organic waste recycling bins to collect materials in all customer areas.

Bin labels and sorting posters are available to commercial customers. To request your posters and sorting labels, contact the City of Vacaville Solid Waste and Recycling Office at (707) 469-6507 or email recycling@cityofvacaville.com.

