

JULY 2026

COMMERCIAL

## CURRENT RECYCLING LAWS for California Businesses

From curbing short-lived climate pollutants through organics recycling requirements to reducing single-use plastics in the restaurant industry – California is leading the way in recycling legislation. Here are some important recycling laws that apply to California businesses:

### **AB 827: Customer Access to Recycling (July 1, 2020):**

Intended to educate and involve customers in achieving the State's recycling goals, AB 827 requires businesses to provide easily accessible recycling and/or organics collection bins in customer areas to collect materials generated from products purchased on the premises starting

July 1, 2020. All commercial food service establishments that provide food for purchase and immediate consumption on site are required to comply with AB 827, with exceptions made for full-service restaurants.

### **SB 1383: Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Bill (January 1, 2022):**

Considered California's most ambitious recycling law in decades, SB 1383 requires all businesses in California to recycle their organic waste beginning January 1, 2022. Additional requirements for edible food recovery apply to larger, commercial food generators. SB 1383 also includes requirements for business owners to provide annual education and training to employees on proper sorting of waste.

### **SB 54: Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (June 30th, 2022):**

Senate Bill 54 establishes the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act, which shifts the cost and responsibility of single-use packing and food ware to producers, rather than local government and consumers. By 2032, SB 54 will require producers to meet three main goals: Lower plastic packaging by 25%, reach a 65% recycling rate for single-use plastic packaging, and ensure that 100% of their packaging is recyclable or compostable. As we get closer to 2032, local business owners that deal with single-use packing and food ware should be on the lookout for these goals to reduce the amount of plastic packaging materials.



For more information about these laws, visit [www.vacavillerecycling.com](http://www.vacavillerecycling.com)

# A WASTE ASSESSMENT COULD SAVE YOU MONEY!

## What is a Waste Assessment?

A waste assessment is a simple assessment of the type and quantities of waste that a business generates. It can help you determine which materials can be recycled, how many collection containers will be necessary, and how frequently they should be serviced.

## Why Do a Waste Assessment?

Not all businesses are the same. The amount of waste and recyclables produced is impacted by variables that differ from one business to the next. You need to examine your own waste stream before adopting new recycling programs to assure a good fit with your business. Most importantly, a waste assessment can help identify opportunities to save money on your service bill by right-sizing your service.



## What to Expect During a Waste Assessment:

The specific elements of your waste assessment will depend on the type of business or residential property you have. A typical waste assessment will include:

- ✓ A site visit to discuss sustainability goals and identify potential space requirements or constraints;
- ✓ An audit of your waste stream to suggest bin sizing and reduce costs;
- ✓ Customized service options and equipment recommendations; and
- ✓ Educational materials and training – all at no additional cost.

## Requesting a Waste Assessment:

Representatives from Recology Vacaville Solano and the City of Vacaville are available to help you. To schedule a **FREE** waste assessment, simply call Recology Vacaville Solano at (707) 448-2945, or the City of Vacaville's Solid Waste and Recycling Office at (707) 469-6507.

## A QUICK GUIDE TO ORGANICS RECYCLING

### ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

- ✓ Green waste materials – grass clippings, leaves, weeds, tree & shrub prunings
- ✓ Fruit & vegetable scraps, including pits, shells, and peels
- ✓ Bread, rice, pasta, & grains
- ✓ Eggshells
- ✓ Meat, poultry, fish, & shellfish
- ✓ Bones
- ✓ Coffee grounds and tea
- ✓ Food-soiled paper & cardboard (napkins, uncoated paper plates, greasy pizza boxes, etc.)



### UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

- ✗ Plastic bags or packaging (include those labeled "compostable")
- ✗ Palm Fronds and Oleander
- ✗ Garbage
- ✗ Hazardous waste & e-waste
- ✗ Construction debris (concrete, rocks, dirt, asphalt)
- ✗ Animal feces or manure
- ✗ Painted or treated lumber, plywood, or particle board



If you aren't sure if something is recyclable, visit [www.WhatBin.com](http://www.WhatBin.com) to find out.