

Mandatory Commercial & Multi-Family Recycling in San Carlos

Required Recycling Ordinance

What It Means for YOU

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Overview

- Why mandatory/required recycling?
- Who is affected?
- What are the requirements?
- How will they be enforced?
- When will the requirements take effect?
- What are your questions and concerns?
- What are the next steps?

Why A Local Mandatory Commercial Recycling Program?

- Increases recycling diversion, participation, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions
 - Voluntary programs and economic incentives are limited
- Provides greater return on investment in recycling infrastructure
 - Higher efficiency and capital utilization
 - Cost savings for businesses
 - Keeps solid waste rates stabilized
- Will be mandated by the State of California
 - AB32 Scoping Plan – Mandatory Commercial Recycling slated for implementation in 2010
 - Opportunity to design a local program that fits San Carlos

Other Communities with Mandatory Recycling Policies and Programs

- Sacramento Regional Waste Management Authority
- San Diego
- Fresno
- San Francisco
- San Luis Obispo
- Seattle
- Portland
- Honolulu
- Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District
- Gainesville (FL)
- Philadelphia
- Passaic County (NJ)
- City of New York

San Carlos Commercial Sector Background Statistics

- 1,100 commercial solid waste accounts
- 879 with recycling service
- 62 with organic materials recycling service
- Recycling rate = 24% (Residential = 58%)
- Approximately 2/3 of solid waste collected
- Nearly 40% of disposed commercial solid waste is recyclable or compostable
- Organic materials (food scraps) recycling service available since 2004 (comm); March for res.

Who Is Affected?

- All commercial and multi-family customers with 2+ cubic yards of solid waste collection service; also includes City buildings
- Special events
- Exemptions for:
 - Small accounts – those with less than 2 cubic yards per week of solid waste service
 - Cases where recycling is not feasible (for example due to space constraints)

What Are the Requirements?

- Receive recycling collection service from the franchised collection company or independent recycling collector
- Separation and collection of organics from medium to large food service establishments
- Property owners/managers and special event organizers are required to:
 - subscribe to recycling service
 - provide adequate containers and signage
 - provide education and training

How Will the Requirements Be Enforced?

- 3 step process:
 - 1st event - Courtesy Notice
 - 2nd event - Warning
 - 3rd event - Violation
- Graduated fines:
 - \$100 initial violation; maximum penalty \$500
- City will enforce ordinance and issue fines; franchised collection services provider will assist with monitoring compliance and reporting

When Will the Requirements Be Phased In?

7/1/2010: 6-month grace period before ordinance becomes effective

1/1/2011: Recyclables for larger accounts
(4+ cubic yards)

1/1/2012: Recyclable materials for medium-sized accounts (2+ cubic yards)

1/1/2013: Organic materials for larger food service accounts (4+ cubic yards)

1/1/2014: Organic materials for medium-sized food service accounts (2+ cubic yards)

Rationale for Phased-In Approach

- Largest solid waste generators generally offer highest recycling diversion and GHG reduction opportunities.
- Allows for targeted education and outreach.
- Helps generators to gain experience with effective recycling, before adding organics.
- San Francisco: No phase-in period.
- Other jurisdictions: Phase-in approach.

Exemptions

Proposed Approach

- Exclusion: Customers with less than 2 cubic yards/week of solid waste service.
- Exemption: Customers where recycling is not feasible.
 - Can petition for exemption
 - Will be charged a fee to cover City's costs

Rationale

- Limited impact on solid waste stream; high cost to enforce compliance
- Approximately 400 businesses (34%) would be excluded
- These small commercial accounts generate 4% of franchised commercial solid waste collected in San Carlos

Requirements for Building Owners and Property Managers

Proposed Approach

- Building owners and property managers will be required to:
 - Provide adequate recycling collection service
 - Ensure that adequate containers and signage are provided
 - Provide information and training to users

Rationale

- Ensures that generators have the services, infrastructure, and knowledge needed to comply

Requirement for Independent Recycling Collectors

Proposed Approach

- City business registration
- Compile and maintain information on service levels and materials collected from customers
- Provide reports on recycling services provided to businesses upon request by City

Rationale

- Ensures legitimate recycling and minimum regulation of service providers
- Enables city to track progress and better enforce ordinance
- Provides level playing field for all affected businesses

Questions and Comments?

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THANK YOU FOR
YOUR INPUT!