

With the passage of AB 1826, new organic recycling requirements are being phased in over several years and will help the state meet its goal to recycle 75 % of its waste by 2020.

**Businesses, including public entities, schools, and multifamily complexes of 5 units generating threshold volumes of waste or more are required to recycle their organic waste on and after April 1, 2016.**

El Dorado County and the County's franchise waste haulers are here to help businesses, public entities, schools, and multifamily complexes comply with the new state requirement. This brochure provides:

- Information about how the law is being phased in over time, based on thresholds of amounts of waste generated by covered facilities.
- Organic waste collection and recycling options available to you.

**DID YOU KNOW?** In El Dorado County recyclable organic waste accounts for about 41% of the material disposed in landfills annually by the commercial sector. Recycling organic waste can save businesses money by reducing disposal costs while supporting green jobs in our community.



## Local Resources

**El Dorado County Community Development Agency Environmental Management Division**  
(530) 621-5300  
<http://www.edcgov.us/EMD/>

**El Dorado Disposal**  
(530) 313-8322  
[Taylor@wcnx.org](mailto:Taylor@wcnx.org)  
<http://www.eldoradodisposal.com>

**South Tahoe Refuse**  
(530) 541-5105  
<http://www.southtahoerefuse.com>

**Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal**  
(530) 538-7800  
<http://www.waste101.com>

## State Resources

**Mandatory Organic Recycling (MORE) Home Page** <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/>

**Mandatory Organic Recycling (MORE) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**  
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/FAQ.htm>

**CalRecycle Food Scrap Management Home Page**  
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/Food/default.htm>

**California Air Resources Board (ARB) Small Business Toolkit**  
[www.CoolCalifornia.org](http://www.CoolCalifornia.org)

**El Dorado County Community Development Agency**  
*"Providing Great Infrastructure for Great Communities"*

## Mandatory Organics Recycling for California Businesses and Multifamily Complexes



## Regulatory Requirements

The law requires that businesses arrange for recycling services for the following types of organic waste:

- Food waste
- Green waste
- Landscape and pruning waste
- Non-hazardous wood waste
- Food-soiled paper

Multifamily complexes must arrange for recycling services for the same materials with the exception of food waste and food-soiled paper. Most organic waste is recyclable through methods such as composting, mulching, and anaerobic digestion. Organic recycling services often accept a wide variety of different types of organic waste. Check with your waste hauler to learn about their organics waste recycling service.

**Requirements are being phased in over 4 years based on the amount of waste businesses and multifamily complexes generate. Those at or above the thresholds outlined below must comply:**

- **April 1, 2016** – generators of 8 or more cubic yards of organic waste per week
- **January 1, 2017** – generators of 4 or more cubic yards of organic waste per week
- **January 1, 2019** – generators of 4 or more cubic yards of solid waste per week
- **\*Summer/Fall 2021** – generators of 2 or more cubic yards of solid waste per week, if statewide disposal of organic waste is not decreased by half.

\* Pending CalRecycle review of current organic waste recycling rates. Review will take place in 2020.

## Compliance Options

- Subscribe to organic waste recycling service offered by your local franchise waste hauler. Contact them directly for questions about this service.
- Sell or donate the generated organic waste.

## Success Stories

Food waste recycling programs have already started in El Dorado County. On the west slope, El Dorado Disposal collects separated food wastes from local retailers and delivers the food waste to an organic waste recycler in Sacramento. There, microorganisms in the facility's anaerobic digester break down the organic material into methane which is used to fuel Sacramento's fleet of garbage trucks as well as Sacramento State's campus buses. The leftover effluent is sent to local farmers to be used as fertilizer.

On the east slope, South Tahoe Refuse collects separated food wastes from several restaurants and all South Lake Tahoe (SLT) elementary schools. Kids as young as 5 are now learning to recycle their food waste. Food recycling at schools is successful thanks to school staff, parent volunteers, and student participation. Food waste from the east slope is sent to a composter. There, it is composted in windrows and transformed into rich compost to be sold as gardening and soil enrichment material.

**Contact your area waste hauler for help determining how much organic waste and solid waste your business generates, information about their organic waste recycling options, and rates.**

## Exemptions for Businesses and Multifamily Complexes

Case-by-case exemptions: The law allows jurisdictions to, on a case-by-case basis, grant exemptions to businesses and multifamily complexes that meet any of the following criteria:

- The multifamily complexes or businesses lack sufficient space to provide additional organic material recycling bins.
- The business currently implements actions that result in the recycling of a significant portion of organic waste.
- The business or group of businesses does not generate at least 1/2 of a cubic yard of organic waste per week.
- The business or group of businesses does not generate at least 1 cubic yard of organic waste per week (if the local jurisdiction provides CalRecycle with information that explains the need for this higher exemption).<sup>\*</sup>
- Limited-term exemptions may be granted for extraordinary and unforeseen events.

**Exemptions are subject to jurisdiction review.**



<sup>\*</sup> This exemption is subject to expiration if the state fails to meet disposal reduction targets in 2020.