



San Benito County

Integrated Waste Management Regional Agency

12/03/2025

Re: State Recycling Laws & Requirements for Businesses in Discretionary Zone

Dear San Benito County Business,

State laws AB 341 (Mandatory Commercial Recycling), AB 1826 (Mandatory Organics Recycling) and, SB 1383 (Mandatory Organic Waste Reduction) require businesses to recycle, participate in organics recycling, and reduce organic waste disposed in landfills. The purpose of this letter is to ensure that you are notified of these laws, how to comply, and where to get assistance.

Who must comply?

AB 341 Mandatory Commercial Recycling

Starting July 1, 2012, businesses and public entities that generate four cubic yards or more of waste per week are [required to recycle](#).

AB 1826 Mandatory Organics Recycling

Starting January 1, 2020, businesses and public entities that generate two cubic yards or more of solid waste per week are [required to recycle their organic waste](#).

SB 1383 Mandatory Organic Waste Reduction

Starting January 1, 2022, businesses and public entities are required to comply with a series of [collection requirements](#), including but not limited to:

- Provide collection containers for organic waste and recyclables in all areas where disposal containers are provided for customers
- Provide internal containers that must conform to proper color and labeling requirements
- Provide annual and as-needed education to employees, contractors, tenants, and customers on proper sorting to reduce contamination

As a business owner/manager what do you need to do?

- ✓ **Make sure you have a recycling program and organics recycling program at your business.**
- ✓ **Contact a permitted hauler to begin and improve your recycling program.** The County or your hauler may provide free on-site assistance, internal containers, posters, and training to help get your recycling program started or improved. Permitted haulers in San Benito County can be found here: www.sanbenitocountyca.gov/NEF.



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Benefits to San Benito businesses from waste reduction, recycling and organics recycling:

- ✓ **Save money by reducing waste and recycling**
Garbage collection costs more than recycling (free) and organics services. Businesses that reduce garbage service and increase recycling and organics collection pay less.
- ✓ **Save resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help the environment**
Waste reduction and recycling conserves energy and resources and reduces greenhouse gas emissions produced from organics decomposing in the landfill. Decomposing organic waste in the landfill produces methane which is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide in global warming capacity. Recycling extends the life of our landfills and helps create a more sustainable and healthy environment for our community and future generations.

Easy ways for your business to recycle more and be a Green Business

1. **Join San Benito County's Green Business Program.** This free program provides on-site assistance to your business to help you reduce waste and increase energy efficiency and water conservation. San Benito County Integrated Waste Management provides this program that helps your business achieve zero waste goals, lower operating costs, and become [California Green Business Certified](#). Contact sbcium@sanbenitocountyca.gov to learn more about this free program.
2. **Strive to Achieve Zero Waste.** Achieving Zero Waste is a growing objective for businesses because of the rising cost of garbage service. Zero Waste goals help businesses conserve resources and lower operating costs. Zero Waste actions include: waste prevention, reusing products, buying products made with recycled content, using less toxic products (e.g. cleaners) and recycling solid waste and organics. Zero Waste businesses help meet mandates and cut costs, increase profits and help the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CalRecycle's "Green Your Business" resources can be found here: www.calrecycle.ca.gov/greenbusiness.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact San Benito County Integrated Waste Management at (831) 636-4110 or sbcium@sanbenitocountyca.gov.