

# Get Ready for Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling

## Covered Businesses Must Have Organics Recycling as of April 1, 2016

As part of California's recycling and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission goals, businesses will be required to collect yard trimmings, food scraps and food-soiled paper for composting, effective April 1, 2016. Multifamily buildings with five or more units will be required to collect yard trimmings, effective April 1, 2016. These organic materials account for nearly one-third of the approximately 30 million tons of waste destined for California's landfills each year.

Diverting organics from landfills for processing into compost and mulch reduces landfill GHG emissions and produces sustainable products that contribute to soil health, plant nutrition, water conservation and carbon sequestration. Mandatory commercial organics recycling helps to meet the goals of California's **Global Warming Solutions Act, AB 32**.



### WHO

**Businesses** that generate eight (8) cubic yards of organic waste per week, including food scraps and yard trimmings, are required to have organics recycling service as of April 1, 2016.

**Multifamily** properties with five (5) units or more that generate eight (8) cubic yards of non-organic waste per week are also covered. As of January 1, 2019 collection of food scraps and food-soiled paper will be required. Some jurisdictions may require this sooner; check with your municipality.

### WHAT

**Food Scraps** including solid, semisolid, and liquid food, such as, fruit, vegetables, cheese, meat, bones, poultry, seafood, bread, rice, pasta, and oils; coffee filters and tea bags; cut flowers and herbs.

**Yard Trimmings** including grass clippings, leaves, flowers, hedge trimmings, weeds, etc. **Nonhazardous Wood** including tree branches, trunks and untreated lumber.

**Food-Soiled Paper** is uncoated paper that is soiled with liquid or solid food waste and typically includes products such as napkins, towels, and tissues, paper plates, paper cups, fast food wrappers, egg cartons, used pizza boxes, wax-coated cardboard, and other similar paper or compostable packaging.

### WHERE

Every jurisdiction in California is required to implement an organics recycling program and conduct outreach to regulated businesses as of January 1, 2016. In addition, jurisdictions are required to monitor regulated business to ensure they comply with recycling requirements.

### WHEN

**April 1, 2016**, businesses and multifamily buildings generating 8 cubic yards per week of covered organics shall arrange for organics recycling service.

**January 1, 2017**, businesses generating 4 cubic yards per week of organics shall arrange for organics recycling service.

**January 1, 2019**, businesses and multifamily properties generating 4 cubic yards of commercial solid waste (trash) shall arrange for organics recycling service.

### HOW

Our trained employees can help you determine the size container and frequency of service required to meet your needs.

