

WASTE MANAGEMENT SHARES STRATEGIES TO HELP BUSINESSES AND PROPERTY OWNERS PREPARE FOR NEW MANDATORY RECYCLING LAW

AB341 takes effect July 1, 2012

July 2, 2012, Simi Valley, Calif. - On July 1, 2012, Governor Brown's recently signed legislation, AB 341, took effect requiring both businesses that generate more than four yards per week of solid waste and multi-family complexes with five units or more to have a recycling program in place. The bill also sets a state-wide 75% waste diversion goal.

The affected businesses represent approximately 20 percent of California's 1.3 million businesses and are responsible for about 75 percent of the commercial waste in California according to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) website.

"While California leads the nation in solid waste diversion, businesses and property owners are being encouraged to be more proactive in doing their part to increase those diversion rates," said Mike Smith, director of operations for Waste Management of Ventura County. "Increasing recycling means more material will be kept away from local landfills as we help to conserve earth's natural resources."

Waste Management is working with municipalities throughout Southern California on programs to support commercial customers and multi-family complexes in meeting the AB341 requirements.

Locally, Waste Management representatives have been working closely with the cities to offer commercial recycling programs with cost rates that will provide savings to customers by increasing recycling practices and decreasing their trash volume.

To assure that both commercial and property owners are taking advantage of these recycling programs, Waste Management provides:

- Free waste assessments to assist businesses to implement successful diversion plans
- On site educational training to employees on best diversion practices to ensure a successful recycling plan
- Follow up visits to ensure diversion plan is successful and or to provide additional technical assistance

"Starting a recycling program is a win for commercial customers, for the city, and for our planet," added Smith.

To contact a Waste Management representative to assist business and multi-family owners obtain information regarding AB341 and help with creating a recycling program that meets your business and property needs, please call 805-955-4346.

< Reuse, Reduce, Success: Your Maximize to >

Whether you have an existing recycling program or starting from scratch, here are some quick and easy tips from Waste Management to help property owners and their tenants make California greener:

- **Appoint a recycling champion:** Identify someone in your office building, apartment or condominium complex who will take ownership of the AB 341 process and coordinate participation.
- **Recycle:** Place a desk-side recycling container (an empty copier paper carton will suffice) at every desk. Collect paper, bottles, cans, and cardboard/paperboard from all your employees or tenants. Recycle old printer cartridges using mail-back containers from the supplier. Collect batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs and tubes, along with e-waste for convenient recycling by mail (www.thinkgreenfromhome.com).
- **Reduce:** This may help lower your monthly trash bill. Think before printing a document. E-mail information instead of using a hard copy. By reducing the amount of material going into your trash bins and increasing the level of recycling, you will have immediate impact on your monthly trash rate.
- **Reuse:** Encourage employees and tenants to re-use. Use paper already printed on one side for notes or printing drafts on the other. Bring your lunch to work in reusable containers. Drink your beverage from your favorite reusable cup or bring a travel mug with you to the coffee shop.
- **Compost:** Organics comprise nearly one-third of the materials found in the trash. Starting a food scraps program helps eliminate food from the trash and contributes to the creation of compost helping to conserve natural resources.

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ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT-VENTURA COUNTY

Waste Management provides Ventura County with recycling, trash hauling and solid waste disposal through G.I. Industries and the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center. Waste Management has owned and operated G.I. Industries since 1998 and the SVLRC site since 1983 and employs more than 230 people in Ventura County. The SVLRC provides approximately 60% of Ventura County's daily refuse disposal needs. The company operates a "green power" program at the site that generates enough power for 2,500 homes, and clean-burning LNG powers 48 of its trucks. Waste Management is a significant contributor to area community groups.