

JANUARY 2024

COMMERCIAL

## REMINDER: CHANGE IS HERE!

### Here's what you need to know about SB 1383 - Organic Waste Reduction Bill:



#### WHAT IS SB 1383?

In September 2016, former Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) establishing a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP). The law specifically sets the following targets:

- Reduce statewide disposal of organic waste by 50% by January 1, 2020 and by 75% by January 1, 2025 (based on 2014 disposal levels).
- Recover and redistribute at least 20% of currently disposed edible food for human consumption by 2025.

#### WHY ORGANIC WASTE?

When organic waste, such as food, green waste, and paper products decompose in a landfill, they produce methane gas – a potent greenhouse gas pollutant. The intent of the organic waste diversion goal is to reduce the emissions of methane gas to combat global climate change.

#### WHAT DO BUSINESSES NEED TO DO?

SB 1383 applies to all businesses in California. If you own a business or apartment/condo complex (of five units or more), beginning January 1, 2022 you are required to:

- ✓ **Divert organic waste** from the landfill by subscribing to and participating in the organics collection service via Recology Vacaville Solano, or arrange for organic waste to be composted or otherwise legally managed on-site.
- ✓ **Provide collection containers** for organic waste and recyclable materials to employees, contractors, tenants, and customers, including providing indoor containers for organic waste and recyclables in all areas where disposal containers are provided for customers, except in restrooms (multi-family dwellings are exempt). Containers must meet standardized color requirements: Gray or black for garbage, blue for recycling, and green for organics. Additionally, containers must have labels with graphic images to indicate acceptable and unacceptable materials. The City of Vacaville and Recology Vacaville Solano is happy to provide bin labels and sorting posters at no additional cost.
- ✓ **Annually provide employees and apartment/condo residents with educational information** about the legal requirements to compost and recycle including how to properly sort between the three waste streams.



To learn more, visit  
[www.vacavillerecycling.com](http://www.vacavillerecycling.com)



# HOW TO RUN A GREEN BUSINESS

Today's business owners are becoming increasingly aware of their impact on the planet and the importance of implementing sustainable business practices that can help ease the burden on our resources. Whether you're new to sustainability or are already committed to running an eco-friendly business but would like to take it step further, here are some tips on ways to shrink your footprint and grow your green business strategy:



**FOCUS ON PACKAGING.** About 50% of the average American's daily waste consists of packaging materials. Take a look at your current packaging and determine if there are ways you can use less material, switch to packaging made with as much recycled and post-consumer content as possible, and be sure your customers know how to dispose of their packaging in a responsible way.

**TRANSITION TO ECO-FRIENDLY SUPPLIES AND SUPPLIERS.** One of the easiest changes you can make is to look at your businesses supplies and where you purchase them. Everything from office paper to breakroom supplies can have an impact on your goals. First, partner with suppliers that employ eco-friendly practices. Not only will you be supporting other green businesses, but it will ensure you have the greatest selection of sustainable products to choose from. Other steps you might take include implementing double-sided printing as a default, replacing disposable goods with reusable items, and looking for ways to make your disposable and/or single use items more eco-friendly. Look for recycled content in what you buy and purchase items that are easy to recycle.

**HELP YOUR TEAM GO GREEN.** Getting your team on board with your greening goals is critical to the success of your sustainability program. Adoption of waste reduction practices, providing the tools to encourage proper recycling, training on sorting of recyclables, and responsible use of resources are important first steps to ensure your goals are being met at all times.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.** Businesses generate a lot of waste. Take a look at your waste stream to determine if source reduction is feasible or look for areas of opportunity to increase recycling. Diverting recyclables from the trash can help reduce your impact on the environment, and even help you save money on your service bill by reducing the size or frequency of your trash collection. If you're not sure where to start, Recology Vacaville Solano's Waste Zero Team can help. **Call (707) 448-2945 to schedule a FREE Business Waste Assessment today!**

## A WASTE ASSESSMENT COULD SAVE YOU MONEY!

### What is a Waste Assessment?

A waste assessment is a simple assessment of the type and quantities of waste that a business generates. It can help you determine which materials can be recycled, how many collection containers will be necessary, and how frequently they should be serviced.

### Why Do a Waste Assessment?

Not all businesses are the same. The amount of waste and recyclables produced is impacted by variables that differ from one business to the next. You need to examine your own waste stream before adopting new recycling programs to assure a good fit with your business. Most importantly, a waste assessment can help identify opportunities to save money on your service bill by right-sizing your service.

### What to Expect During a Waste Assessment:

The specific elements of your waste assessment will depend on the type of business or residential property you have. A typical waste assessment will include:

- A site visit to discuss sustainability goals and identify potential space requirements or constraints;
- An audit of your waste stream to suggest bin sizing and reduce costs;
- Customized service options and equipment recommendations; and
- Educational materials and training – all at no additional cost.

### Requesting a Waste Assessment:

Representatives from Recology Vacaville Solano and the City of Vacaville are available to help you. To schedule a **FREE** waste assessment, simply call Recology Vacaville Solano at (707) 448-2945, or the City of Vacaville's Solid Waste and Recycling Office at (707) 469-6507.