

# AB 1826 (Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is AB1826?

In October 2014, California passed Assembly Bill 1826 requiring all businesses, including multi-family dwellings, to recycle their organics waste. By January 1, 2016 all California jurisdictions must design an organics recycling program and by April 1, 2016, all businesses generating at least 8 cubic yards of organics waste per week will be required to recycle said material. By January 1, 2017 the threshold increases to 4 cubic yards of organics per week.

**\*THIS IS A STATE LAW:** Each city is required to implement this program. Therefore they have asked each hauler to assist them in getting this done.

### 2. Which Businesses Must Comply?

All businesses that generate organics waste might eventually be subject to comply, including multifamily residential dwellings that consist of five or more units. In 2016, the law only affects commercial businesses that produce over 8 cubic yards of organics waste each week. This also includes multifamily dwellings of 5 or more units that generate 8 cubic yards of green/yard waste per week or more. Multifamily dwellings are not required to arrange collection of food scraps or food soiled paper. Green waste, landscape and pruning waste, and nonhazardous wood waste generated at these sites would still be subject to the law.

Athens Services has performed a variety of studies to understand which specific customers meet these requirements. These include physical inspections, as well as calculations recommended by the State of California.

### 3. What is the compliance deadline?

1. **April 1, 2016:** Businesses generating eight (8) cubic-yards or more of organics waste weekly must arrange for organics waste recycling services
2. **January 1, 2017:** Businesses generating four (4) cubic-yards or more of organics waste weekly must arrange for organics waste recycling services
3. **August 1, 2017:** Jurisdictions Report Progress on Organics Recycling Programs to CalRecycle
4. **January 1, 2019:** Businesses generating four (4) cubic yards or more of solid waste weekly must arrange for organics waste recycling services

### 4. What are my recycling options?

Athens is visiting each customer to evaluate their organics recycling needs including container types, service requirements, and site logistics.

### 5. As a business, what do I need to do to prepare?

For each type of business, Athens Services will be offering training, containers and support materials to ensure our customers are informed and recycling correctly.

### 6. As a resident, does AB1826 affect me?

As a single-family homeowner or renter, no. However, AB1826 is required for multifamily properties of 5 units or more producing 8 cubic yards or more of green/yard waste per week come April 1, 2016 and expands to those creating 4 cubic yards or more by January 1, 2017. This does not include food waste.

## 7. What are the potential costs for my business?

Your costs will depend upon the amount of organics you generate weekly and the service required. In addition, space limitations and the amount of recyclables and waste you generate will also have an impact on the pricing.

## 8. I Use A Landscaper; Am I In Compliance?

AB 1826 requires covered businesses that contract for green waste services to stipulate in the landscaping contract that the landscaper will recycle all the green waste it collects from the business/multifamily complex. Currently, delivery of green waste to a landfill for use as Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) is permissible until year 2020. Commencing in 2020, if the landscaper takes the green waste to a landfill for use as ADC or any other facility or transfer station that would then take the material to a landfill, the multifamily dwelling will not be recycling the green waste as required.

## 9. What Are Considered Organics?

Organics waste includes food scraps, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste (paper products mixed in with food scraps). Examples include, but are not limited to...

### **GREEN WASTE:**

- Grass clippings
- Leaves and branches
- Flower and hedge trimmings
- Weeds
- Lumber, scrap wood and plywood types (not painted or treated)

### **FOOD SCRAPS:**

- Fruits and vegetables
- Cheese and dairy
- Meat, bones, poultry, and seafood
- Bread, rice, and pasta
- Coffee filters and tea bags
- Cut flowers and herbs
- And any putrescible matter produced from human or animal food production, preparation, and consumption activities

### **FOOD-SOILED PAPER:**

- Napkins, towels, and tissues
- Paper plates and cups
- Fast food wrappers (paper only. No aluminum or plastic coating.)
- Egg cartons
- Pizza boxes
- Paper packaging
- 100% (fiber based) compostable serving-ware and to go container packaging

## **RESOURCES and LINKS**

[www.athensservices.com/organic-recycling-ab1826.html](http://www.athensservices.com/organic-recycling-ab1826.html)

[www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics)